

A FAITHFULL
RELATION
of the
STATE
and the
LAST WORDS
&
DISPOSITIONS

of certain Persons whom God hath taken
to him self, out of the Church reformed
and separated from the world, which for-
merly was assembled at Herfort and Alte-
na: and now at present at Wiewert in
Friesland.

written originally in french

By PETER YVON, their Pastor.

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AT AMSTERDAM,

Jacob vande Velde at the corner of the Short
Niesell. Anno 1685.



THE PREFACE.

ALTHOUGH God hath given us great matter of praising & thanking him for his grace which he hath bestowed on all our Brethren and Sisters, whom we have seen to pass over to him through death, since he hath formed his Work amongst us at Herfort, untill this day; yet however it came not in our minds to collect together their last words, or to keep a particular record of their last dispositions. True it is we did this in some measure in respect of that faithfull servant of the Lord Mr. de Labadie, whom God hath made use of in a special manner for the forming of this Work of his; and likewise after that God had taken hence into his heavenly Kingdom, his humble servant our worthy & most blessed Sister *Mrs. Anne Mary van Schurman*. Yet we have not made hast,

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to bring to light those points of edification, which we have noted concerning them both, and which may be seen in the description of their lives, which, if God please, shall be put forth to the glory of his grace. If therefore we do renew at present the memory of those who died happily among us, it is indeed the Lord who gives occasion thereunto, and sheweth how that he willeth this from us, for the edification of our neighbours, and to the acknowledgement and thanks for his grace and love which he hath shewed to them and us.

Of four souls whom the Lord hath taken to himself out of our Assembly in the last year 1680. and in the begin of this present year 1681., the first was our very worthy Sister Mistris Huyghens. And for as much as she after a glorious and triumphant manner hath passed over into his bosom, after he

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happy departure, we found our
selves disposed to note certain cir-
cumstances & words which went
before it, and came most lively
into our minds, as wel for our
own comfort as for the comfort of
her friends, and of divers others
who in her life time did know &
love her very much. That which
was written concerning it, being
by little and little communicated
from one to another, hath done
very much fruit, and hath edify-
ed much divers upright souls into
whose hands it came. And for as
much as God hath continued to
comfort us after the same manner,
by those whom like incorruptible
plants, he hath translated from
earth into heaven: we have be-
lieved that we were bound to give
some witness of the grace of God
that was upon them, and to pre-
serve some remembrance thereof,
to the glory of his goodness and
love for their souls. This is that.

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which gave occasion to those four descriptions which shall be found first hereafter, which being made common by the press may be read by more persons, and likewise without all doubt will be of more profit then formerly. And just after this collection was made, God doth again give us speciall matter to renew the remembrance of those blessed ones of ours who died, by the happy decease of my very worthy and beloved Brother and fellow-labourer Master Dulignon, a faithfull Pastor of this Church, after he had lived here below for near the time of fifty years. In the fifth description in this book certain circumstances of his life and death shall be seen, untill a larger and more particular information thereof shall be given in the life of Master de Labadie.

By this occasion we have found our selves to be disposed to call

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to mind some of the last words and chief circumstances of our other brethren and sisters, which are gone to the Lord since the year 1672. untill the last year 1680. And seeing that the remembrance of that good which God hath done to them, might be for edification, so we thought that we ought not to keep it in silence and forgetfulness. Therefore the last description will shew what in their divers states hath most of all touched our hearts, and that which of some hath been noted, or hath remained most lively in our thoughts.

The Righteous perisheth, saith the Prophet, and no man layeth it to heart, and mercifull men are taken away, none considering that the Righteous is taken away from the evill to come Isay. 57: 1., from that evill which is to come upon the earth. The want of observing that which God doth

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is great and very common, and those that fear the Lord, must take heed thereof, and contrary-wise must seek to elevate themselves up to God, in observing what his hand worketh and doth in his grace and divine love. If we must draw fruit out of the holy words of the living, so then we ought to do the same in a speciall manner out of the lively words of those that die in the Lord, and are taken up into his Glory. We all are going to eternity, and every moment of our lives are as so many steps made towards it. And so every one goeth thitherward by little and little, and cometh to it commonly before he thought on it, or waited for it. Time is given to us for to make provision for eternity; and unhappy are those who loose and neglect it, and bestow it not for him who will save to all eternity those who have li

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ved for him, and have layed to heart his divine glory, J E S U S is come to open heaven to us, whether it be when he came down from heaven to us, or when he ascended thither, triumphing over hell, death, and sinn. How just then is it, that all those who love him should follow him into that glorious mansion place with gladness, and in being ravished with that inexpressible joy which is proper to Christians? We shall see some amplifications hereof, out of which faithfull souls will without doubt take matter of praying and glorifying him who worketh such things in his Saints.

Furthermore we do not think that any who have any knowledge of Church-history and the holy Scriptures, will think it strange that we give to one another the names of Brethren and Sisters, as may frequently be seen in this book. Otherwise one

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should not remember that it was the name wherewith the old Israell called one another, according to the intention and words of the Lord. A man then likewise would have forgotten the command of Christ which he gave to all those that are his, namely to regard each other as children of one and the self same Father that is God; and have little knowledge of the stile of the Apostles when they speake of Christians, or write unto them. The heathens as we may see in Tertullian and Minutius Felix, did admire at it that the Saints did give to each others such names, and that the faithfull men called even their wives Sisters, according to the language of the Apostle Paul. But we need only to read what these two Authors write concerning it, the one in his apologetick or answer for the Christians, and the other in his

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Octavius, as also Justinus and
Athenagoras in their defenses,
and Clemens Alexandrinus in his
Stromates, for to be convinced
that it is the language of the
Christians, and to see what great
and visible grounds they have to
give each other this name.



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THE
LIFE & DEATH
Of divers
SERVANTS OF GOD.

*Some of the last words and senses of Mrs.
Huyghens, our worthy Sister, being
deceased at Wiewert in Friesland the
30. of January in the year 1680.*

WE need not to speak any thing
whereby to make known this
Servant of God, because she is suf-
ficiently known in these provinces.
Though she might have had in the
world all that is commonly sought
there in, yet she hath despised it
even from her youth. In these ti-
mes wherein corruptions are very
extream, she was one of the first of her
condition, who durst make open pro-
fession of godliness, treading under
her feet the vanitys and false advan-
tages of the world. She did for a long
while seek after that which God in a
speciall manner caused her to finde in

2 *Dispositions and last words*

the last years of her age. Her patience in her sufferings and pains hath been notable long ago: especially in the 27. year of her age, when there was necessity to cut a canker out of her breast, wherewith the Lord had visited her for her triall, & to be glorified in her, causing her to suffer as she did. The wicked world seeing her strength and courage, which in this case did appear, and being neither willing nor able to give honor to God and Jesus Christ, would rather say that the woman at Gorcum, who did cut her, had bewitched her, then to acknowledge the support and help, which God's Grace in this necessity had afforded unto her. The inward trials of her soul, for a long time, have been greater then the trials of her body. As soon as she had spoken with that servant of God Mr. Labadie in the year 1666. when we came into these provinces, she found her heart inwardly joint with that grace, which God had laid in the heart of his instrument. And she felt lively in her minde, that it was the same thing that

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so long she had sought for: which caused her to say with great joy to divers of her friends, *I have found a Man of God.* She followed God at his call, and nothing was able to keep her back in his way. Yet however, it hath cost her much to be thoroughly purged: but she hath allways found, especially in the last years of her life, how good and faithfull God hath been to her in all his dealings with her, and in all those wayes which he hath taken with her soul. He hath imployed her, since we came in Friesland, to doe much good to divers, both in respect of soul and body. One soul amongst others, whom God would turn to himself by her means, in a very evident and extraordinary manner, did serve to confirm that she was indeed an instrument in the hand of God, to doe the works of his love and grace.

The 6. of January 1630. she was inclined to go and walk in the orchard, although she was hardly able to go so far, being already not very well to doe. From thence she did cast her eyes

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upon our churchyard, which she could see from that place, with this impression that the Lord would shortly cause her body to be brought thither. And God even at that time not giving her much sense of his grace, she remained in some sadness before him. Being sat down and a beam of the sun shining on her face through the trees, she felt a lively impression that God would yet cause his glorious face to shine upon her; and withall perceiving that one beam of God, being more lively and clearer then that of the sun, did touch her heart and soul, and gave her the sense that after her departure out of the world God would certainly cause her to enter into his glory, to be allwayes with him.

In this sickness, which did continue some time, before she kept her bed, she had a deep impression, that God would speedily take her out of the world. And though she found her self burdened with many diseases, which pressed her on all sides, yet she said allwayes that her whole heart was disposed to leave her self

to God, and not to use many remedies, entreating that we would but commit her to the Lord, and his divine hand, in which she found all her rest. And this she spake with such an affection which penetrated her heart, and did put her above herself and all her weaknesses. *The counsel of God, said she, must needs be fulfilled: It is his will that I should suffer, sometimes after one manner, and sometimes after another. Leave me to the Lord.*

Her last weaknesses did continue some monthes. They tooke their beginning with great paines in her loins, and with a fit of the gravell: to which she was much subject. Afterwards she began to vomite very much, not being well able to retain that which she took for her sustenance. She looked upon this inconvenience as was that of an other person amongst us, which was not thereby remarkably weakened. But for her it was very incommodious, especially at night time, for then she suffered much, and passed the same many times without closing

As long as she could she remained upon her leggs, having kept her bed wholly but a few dayes. But she should have done it sooner, if love had not powerfully supported her, and made her to forget her self and her uneasiness, to help her brothers and sisters. This forgetting & denying of her self hath been very evident & special. Some monthes since the Lord in his providence applying her a new to help the sick among his children, she said that *she felt as the last outgoings of her haert to God, to bestow the remainder of her strength with love on him and those that are his.* We did many times admire, how she did at day time go and come with so much zeal & strength, when she had past the nigt before so ill & with so much unease. But we saw that we must leave her to God & his Spirit, and to his love which did prels her to doe for his children what she did.

She could hardly be perswaded that we should consult with the Doctor, one of our friends, and yet less that he should come to visit her: But at

last she consented to it, giving way to our hearty desires, and to the affections of our tenderness and love, which did move us, if it was possible and pleasing to God, to give her some help or ease. The Doctor was much comforted, and glad in God, when he visited her, and found her soul in that frame, in which it was, though he saw very well, that little help could be given to her body.

She had a great hunger & thirst to the word of God, & did cherish herself up oftentimes, that she might hear speaking of him in the assembly of his children: for this was her great joy & comfort. A few dayes before her dissolution she was yet in the assembly, & found her self thereby as wholly refreshed, comforted & lifted up to God.

Two dayes before her death, as we came out of the assembly, & I told her that one point was handled which did much agree with her state, and that all of us were touched very much there with, the children of the Lord with a

tender acknowledgement calling to mind the works of her love, she answered in deep humility: *Alas what have I done for them! I have received more demonstrations of their love in two dayes, then I have given them all the dayes of my life. But if God should again restore me, O with what heart & love & joy would I serve them!*

In the same day in the morning by time she had a great desire to speak with me, & to tell me, „ That the „ Lord did confirm my words to her „ heart, that he did more & more „ draw near to her, that he shewed „ himself to her soul, that he came & „ was come; and though he was not „ altogether near at hand, that yet he „ gave, in beholding of him, to en- „ joy his rest, to feel his peace, & to „ give her self wholly into his hands. From that time also we saw in her a new enlargement of spiritual life, divine strength & pure joy in God & CHRIST her Saviour. And even to her last breah, she gave speciall cause of comfort, holy joy & blessing of God, to all those which

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have seen and heard her.

For as much as by all what was given to her, she got no ease, & that even the best things and that which did allwayes help her before, did seem now to be become quite contrary to her; she rejoyced in the Lord oftentimes, because he had taken away from her all creature help, that so he might take away from her all stay & support which at any time she might have placed in them, and she said many times with a great impression:
No more creatures, I need the Creator.

On the same day, she did entreat those who were about her bed, that they should sing the 42 psalm.

Like as the hart doth breath & bray

The wellsprings to obtain,

So doeth my soul desire allway

With the Lord to remain &c.

whereby she was so much moved, that she did even melt in teares & in tendernefs of heart & love for God, for whom she groaned without ceasing.

A little after, my Brother Dullignon, who by reason of his great

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indisposition had not yet been out of his chamber, coming to visit her, though it was bad weather, and the cold something sharp, she was so very sensible of it, that she could not sufficiently express it, saying she was unworthy of all the love that was shewen to her, which however, as she said, she could not resist; adding there unto, that what was told her by my worthy Brother, *did pull up her heart to God, to make her speedily to fly up to him.*

That which most constantly and tenderly did affect her heart, was that she had not sufficiently glorified the goodness and mercy of the Lord, which she found to be so great and excellent: *That, said she, goeth through my heart.* And lifting up her soul to God, she added: *I doe sink, I doe sink in thy bottomless gulfe, O my God. O my Father, art thou so good to such a sinner, that thou dost pardon me all my sins, my many-fold sins, my infinite sins!* And turning her self a little to our sister van de P. she said: *My beloved sister, O how great a grace! I would very willingly go to the house of my Father, however I have deserved*

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that he should say, Stay there thou naughty child, stay yet longer in the world. The night which was between Sunday and Monday, our sister van de P. with another watching by her, they saw that she had great pains and suffered more then ordinarily, especially by the generall convulsions of her sinews, through all her body; but she endured it with so much patience and acknowledgement of the help which was given to her, that they could not but be touched therewith, and be sensible of it. *Pray the Lord for me*, said she. And as soon as she was something eased, she instantly desired that they would be pleased to take some rest, it being a trouble to her that they did it not.

On Sunday evening our sister van de P. relating to her, that I found my self to be thus employed before God about her and her state, that I had scarce any thing else in my heart and thoughts, and that I felt, that God was good to her, and would in a speciall manner be so: She answered, *Lord what doest thou not let*

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me bear, who am so unworthy! My God, thou art willing even to overburden me with thy goodness! The Lord giving me more opportunity to come unto her, then to my dear Brother Dulignon, she accepted all whatsoever I said unto her, with so much tenderness and thankfullness, for the love and care which God made us to have for her, that she was wholly taken up therewith. On the one side her deep humility was the cause that she felt her self to be unworthy of so many visits; but on the other side her desire to it was so great, and her joy for it so lively and powerfull, that she could not keep it in.

My Brother Dulignon telling her, Beloved Sister, you shall die in such manner as we our selves would desire to die: her heart was lively touched thereby, and with great affection going out to the Lord.

On monday at noon whilst we were at dinner, she entreated again our sister van de P. to sing the first vers of the 42. Psalm. And after

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she had sung it in French, and sung it over again in Dutch, our sister Huyghens did sing it with her with such fullness of heart and loudness of voice, that we could heare it below; and one should not say then, that her end was so near by. Afterwards our sister van de P. sung to her these three verses out of one of our songs.

*O come, and let us give all glory to
the Lord,*

*Who is the Lamb of God; praise him with
one accord.*

*Who in his mercys great, and goodness
infinite,*

*Unto his wedding feast him self us doth
invite;*

*Who gives to us his grace, great bounty in
his love.*

*Who can then choose but fly with wings to
him above,*

*Where when we shall arrive nothing shall
wanting be,*

*Where when our soules shall come, we shall
all fullness see.* [come:

*O, come therefore, come godly Bridegroom,
Come, Lord, unto thy glorious kingdom.*

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*Exalted be on earth thy kingdom dear.
The like say he which ever this doth hear.
Come speedily, ô Lord, we thee adore:
Yea come, ô Lord, again we thee implore.
O joyfull word, Yea I come speedily,
A glorious word, a word most lovely.
Amen, Lord come, and make no more delay
According to thy truth our hearts doe say,
So saith thy Spirit, Lord: so by thy grace.
Thy Spouse: O Jesus, let us see thy face.
Wherewith all she joyned herself in
a speciall manner, & desired that
the same might be repeated to her
again, by reason of that speciall fa-
vour which she had therein.*

Being oftentimes visited by divers
of the children of the Lord, she said
when they were gone: *O how lovely
doth the Lord make them!* A brother
seeing her to suffer, and being
thereby moved very much, did say:
Worthy sister, I pray to God that it
may be his will to lessen your pains.
I am tenderly moved to see you suf-
fer so much; But I cannot bemoan-
ne you, because I see you by the
means here of to draw near to the
Lord, & to your full delivrance.
Which thoughts she embraced with

joy and speciall pleasure.

Our Sister van de P. having said unto her, We doe beleve indeed that the Lord will take you to himself, but we hope that he will give us yet first more opportunity, to shew to you the love which the Lord hath given to us for you; She said on the moonday evening: *Wel my sister, I now may very well go: for I have certainly received sufficient proofs of your love.* And where as they were talking, who were to watch the night of the day after, she asserted: *There need no care for that, there will be no need of it.* And withall she asked, *Are not they to wash to morrow? O I hope that the Lord Jesus will wholly wash my soul to morrow.* And the next day, which was the day she died, she said, having respect to these two things, *Have not I told it to you?* She was as ravished, when she thought thereon, that she should be without sin, and wholly made white in the blood of JESUS CHRIST, & throug the full effusion of his Spirit upon her: O, said she, *not to sin any*

more, not to be able to sin any more, what great happiness is that!

The night which was between monday & tuesday, our sister van S. watching with our sister C. who did usually take care of the sick with Mrs. Huyghens, she shewed much thankfulness to God, because he did something assuage her paines, although her anguishes were yet great; and she received with much tenderness & humility that service which was done to her, saying: „Behold, „how much service doe I want? It „is good that men doe something „enter into the state of the sick; „one should sometimes think that „they have no need of so many „things. She did not think on her self but with relation to others, and through that sense which charity did give to her. This made her in a special manner to say to our brother D. taking him by the hand: „My brother, many have asked me whether „I had any thing to say to them, „& I had nothing: but I will tell „you: For as much as at present

„ you are to have the speciall care for
 „ the sick, that you doe wholly &
 „ with great application give you self
 thereunto. *O how much have you hel-
 ped me, said she more then once to
 our Sister van S. If you had not been so
 strong as to raise me up oftentimes, I had
 failed in my anguishings. What a faith-
 full help have you been to me.*

On Tuesday morning she found
 herself wholly faint in all her limbs,
 and to be taken with a sleep which
 did nothing but make her more hea-
 vy. Whereupon she said very sen-
 sibly, *Now God will give some change.*

The Doctor being come some time
 afterwards, & finding her to be so
 weak, that many remedys were not
 to be given unto her any more, she
 was very glad, seeing that God did
 make her by degrees draw nearer &
 nearer to her end, and that no help
 was to be expected any more from
 the creatures, being not to live any
 longer here below. *O how doe I re-
 joyce, said she, that the opinion of the
 Doctor is not contrary to mine!*

About an hour after dinner our

sister Y. saying to her: My worthy sister, God hath made you to passe through many trialls, and now long ago: „ Yes, said she, the Lord „ hath tried me indeed; but however, „ he hath been allwayes with me. Yet she was even then in great anguish, in which she found her self after she had slumbred a little while. And when she felt death to approach, she said, *Shall I no more see our beloved Brethren, our worthy Pastors?* (We were just gone down with the Doctor.) This then was told us, & coming presently to her, we found her in great faintness, and we lifted up our selves to God (as we frequently did,) offering up unto him for an oblation this worthy soul, & giving her over in the hands of the Lord J E S U S, her great & faithful Shepherd.

She was at that time in unusuall anguishments, which caused such great & suddain changes in her, that one could cleerly see, that she hastened much towards her end, and that likely it would not be long, befo-

re she should attaine to it. It seemed sometimes, as if she should be gone in those faint fits, but she came to her self againe. The first word that she said, speaking to the Doctor, was: „O Sir, how good is „it to live & die among the children of God! How much help „and support doth one receive from „them! ô how great a good is it! And for as much as I said unto her, My worthy sister, we cannot help you, nor give you any ease; she did answer with great feeling of heart: *Yea indeed you can help me, and you doe help me.* But the mind & heart, where with she did speak this & so many other things, are not well to be expressed.

The Doctor, which had a speciall love to our house, said to her, that it would have been a great grief to him, if he had not been with her that day, and that having had particular acquaintance with her, she should have gone to the Lord, without having seen her in that comfortable state wherein he saw her. And be-

cause, as he added, even as Salomon
,,saith, it is better to goe into the
,,house of mourning, then into the
,,house of feasting, for there is the
,,end of all flesh, and the living doth
,,lay it to heart: she thereupon an-
swered with a laughing mouth and
joyfull heart: ,, A house of mour-
,,ning? No Sir, this is no house of
,,mourning; it is a house of laughter,
,,and a house of joy. Doe not you
,,behold the heart of my dear brethe-
,,ren and sisters? Doe not you see
,,how joyfull they are? and how they
,,thank God for the grace which he
,,sheweth unto me? And though by
,,reason of my weakness they doe
,,not now sing out aloud, O they
,,will doe it hereafter, as soon as I
,,shall have passed over to the Lord.
And turning her self towards us, she
proceeded on to say: ,,Is it not
,,true, worthy brethren and sisters,
,,that you doe rejoyce, and that you
,,will praise the Lord for my delive-
,,rance? O doe it, doe it, I pray
,,you, as soon as I shall be gone to my
God. And applying her self in a

Speciall manner to our sister van de P. she said: „ Will not you doe it my dear sister? Will not you praise the Lord? I pray, doe it.

The Doctor being willing to make her to take something, she said divers times, *I have no need any more, I have no need of a cordiall*, desiring to acquaint them that she had her cordial in her heart. And one telling her that it was but a little of the spirit of lemons, she replied, *Doe not speak to me of any more spirits.* And when thereupon I said unto her, My sister, you are dead unto the creatures, you must have the holy Ghost for your cordiall; she said divers times: „ Yea my worthy Brother, yea it is he, and he alone, whom I doe want. We saw her indeed dead unto the expectation of any remedies, and it troubled her to hear us speak of it; not by reason of any naturall contrariety, for she had none in the least against the most lothsome things before her sickness, when the Lord would have it to be: but because her heart and mind was so

much taken up with God, that she could not so much as think on that which is here below. And likewise we found that all things did her hurt, and the Doctor said, that he saw that nothing was more fit for her then the wine sponge, which from time to time during her sickness we were wont to give unto her, to strengthen her. Her anguishments being again grown very great, I did present her before the Lord, praying unto him for the continuance of the assistance of his divine grace & power to his servant, that was suffering before his eyes and at his feet. Where upon falling in a great faintness, she laid her self down upon her pillow, saying: *I loose my self in God for ever.* A little after my Brother Dulignon saying unto her, Well my worthy Sister, the Lord will come, and will speedily come; she encouraged her self to tell him: *Yea my worthy brother, yea indeed he cometh.* Which she repeated three or four times, with so much tenderness of heart, that we clearly saw that her heart was wholly penetrated, and

burning with love towards the Lord Jesus. Afterwards she fell into a little sleep, which did continue for about the space of a quarter of an hour. And for as much as we did see continually, that she did allwayes come out of those slumbrings with great anguish, we therefore did admire to see her coming out of this, so full of life and spirituall strength, by which it did evidently appear, that the Lord was come yet nearer unto her, and that the sense of his lovely presence had, as it were, even wholly refreshed and renewed her. Being indeed full thereof, she could not keep her self from crying out with a loud voyce and speciall strength: *O how good is the Lord! O how good is he! My God, art thou so good to me! My God, my Father, could I at any time conceive it? O how great is God! Let every one loose him self in him, and in his goodness; Yea let every one loose him self in him, and give him self wholly over unto Him.* But it would not be possible to relate all the words and expressions, where with her heart and

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mouth, for the time of more then half an hour did overflow, with such a lifting up of her minde to God, and union of her heart with Jesus Christ, that all those that did hear and see her, were holily taken up with it, not being able to doe any thing else but thank God from the bottom of their hearts, for this plentiful effusion of his Spirit and Grace, of his light and love, wherewith he had so much filled up this vessell, that it did run over in such a pure, affectionate and loving manner. And for as much as we were come round about her bed, to see her to finish her course and triumph, she looked round about her upon every one of us with great pleasure, and praised God that she found her self to be compassed about with such a number of Gods children: *These are*, said she to the Doctor, *my worthy Bretheren and Sisters. O how lovely are they!* Indeed, the love which God had given to her for all his children, is not to be expressed.

Afterwards because we saw that her mouth began to grow something dry

of Mr . Huyghens . 25

dry, and we asked her if she would not drink, she answered, *No, but I go to drink, I go to drink the waters of life: there will be quenching and refreshment.* And turning her self about to our sister van de P., she said: *Did not I tell you that to day I should be washed in that great lavour of the blood of Jesus? And this shall be. I drown my self,* said she, *in that Sea, yea in that great Sea.* And we saw that her heart and soul did even flote away in love to God, sinking in the bottomless ocean of his mercy and of the blood of Christ her Saviour.

She spoke with an inexpressible sense of the beauty, glory, and loveliness of the Lord Jesus: oftentimes repeating these words, *O what is he not!*

Having kept silence some time, she said, *I go to embrace him in the name of you all.* And turning her self unto me, she said: *tell it, I pray you, to our two brethren which are absent, that I am going to embrace the Lord Jesus in their name & the name of you all.*

Worthy brethren & sisters, said she, *with a speciall affection, and a very great impression, „ Fear not death, it is not*

„ bitter : no it is sweet, it is sweet &
 „ good. Be not afraid of it, it is very
 „ well to be born. The bitterness of
 „ death is past ; adding unto it „ who
 „ was it that said so ? But I speak it in
 „ an other sens. And when I answered
 her, He who spake those words,
 thought that he should not die, but
 you say them, seeing death coming
 on & embracing it : I, said she, *soit*
is that I mean.

She said, „ Fear not to go to God:
 „ Doe not you heare it, brethren
 „ and sisters ? It is good to loose our
 „ selves in him : then we are truly
 „ save. O how doe I feel it and have
 „ experience of it ! I did not think
 „ that death was so sweet. And
 shortly after : „ I die every minute,
 „ and yet I live still. God worketh no
 „ miracles to free us from the cross.
 „ I must suffer, God will have it to
 „ be so, and I likewise.

„ How sad and terrible a thing
 „ would it be to me, said she, if God
 „ now should be terrible to my soul :
 „ Death would be untolerable to me.
 Being in great anguish and grow-

of Mrs. Huyghens. 27

ing faint, she said, „ In what great anguish am I ! But it is only according to the body, it is only from without, within there is room.

She said to the two brethren H. with great sense: *How good is the Lord, that he hath brought you in his house, in the midst of his children.*

Taking by the hand our sister C. who had employed her self with her about medicins and the sick, as well within the house as without, she said unto her : „ You will loose nothing, I doe surely trust that God will provide in all things. He will shew that he hath no need of this instrument, which till now he hath been pleased to make use of. Have the same confidence.

The Doctor with great affection taking his leave of her, and telling her that she should proceed to fight the good fight, and that she should receive the crown of life; she answered with gladness of mind, and a great motion of heart: *Sir, I have no need to fight, the Lord Jesus hath vanquished & overcome all.*

Turning her self to our sister V. she said: *You must loose your self more in the Lord. Our safety is in that loss. There is no other way but this.*

Our sisters van S. having received a letter from Mrs. Verbrugge, which was sealed with black sealing-wax, and having opened it in the stead of our sister Huyghens who could not doe it, they told me the contents thereof. I thereupon going to our worthy sister, said unto her, I bring you good tidings, your cousin Arnoldina is gone before you to heaven; there you will find her: for she is deceased, after that she had received divers great proofs of gods grace: she said „O is it true, my worthy Brother, is that sweet child even „gone before me? The Lord be praised „for it, the Lord hath done according as I felt. The Lord hath made me to feel it. And she added to it; „Did not I tell you so, my sister. Turning her self to our sister van S. to whom she had spoken this.

Again having stumbled a little, after

she had expressed many most inward and stirring affections when she awakened, she said: *Thus to die even sleeping what an easy death is that.*

After she was fallen into faintness, and was come to her self again, she said: *I am not alwayes the like in anguish.* And I having told her a little before, that the Lord J E S U S would lead her through the shadow of death, she did answer me: *Fear indeed, it is but a shadow of death, that I am passing through.*

Between six & seven a clock, she said looking on our Sister vande P., which supported her: *My beloved Sister, must I yet dye in your arms?*

She had said unto her before with great affection: *The Lord is come, He is come.* And afterwards she repeated, being full of joy: *To be so near, to be so near to God, what happiness is that! I go now to enjoy an other life.*

Our sister vande P. saying that the Doctor had said, that about seven a clock some alteration would be seen, which he understood of death; and she adding thereunto after her

30 *Dispositions and last words*
meaning, that it would be after one
manner or an other : She answered:
Loving Sister, tell me not of an other
manner, being as I am now so near by
the Lord.

My heart being full of the sense
of Gods goodness, which did so
plentifully effuse it self upon her,
and I telling her: Did not I tell
you, from the Lord, that he
would thus deal with you; She an-
swered: *Yes my worthy Brother, it is*
because you did better know Him then I.

And while as at divers times she
had shewen much zeal for the souls
of her Friends, and a fervent desire
that God through his grace might be
glorified in them, I therefore asked
her a few hours before her death, if
she did desire that I should write any
thing in particular to her sister Mrs.
Verbrugge, and to Mr. Huyghens
her Brother. And she answered me:
Nothing but that I leave them to the Lord,
that I have committed them unto him,
and that in love I doe tenderly salute them.
And asking her yet, shall not I doe
the same to Madam van O. She

answered, *Should not you? you knows how much I have allwayes loved her with her worthy Sisters.*

Our Sister Magdalene, whose happy decease shall likewise be found here, telling her two monthes before her end, that she did as yet feel some fear, when she beheld death; she said to her chearfully:
 „You must come & see me die, for I
 „shall not live long any more; and
 „then you will have no more fear
 „for death.

Even as in her life-time she had a great zeal for the elect of God, and the establishment & enlargement of the kingdom of JESUS CHRIST in their soules, which was the cheef matter of her desires & prayers: so likewise she did in a speciall manner enlarge them in her last hour. Not by any motion of her own, or any thing that would as prevent the Lord by doing that which he did not, or more then he did or found good to doe: For in this thing she had received much light from the Lord, and she humbled herself before him for

that mixtur of her own work in times past, with that which should have been only the Lords work. but her heart went forth with much tenderness to God for his Elect, that are in so much danger in the midst of the world. And she did shew that she was especially sensible, whether it was of the state of those on whom God by his Grace had truly wrought, and that did yet remain compassed about with great darkness and wants, or whether it was for the state of those elect who had not yet heard of Christ. It is not to be expressed how tenderly sensible she was there of.

She said that she would pray to the Lord Jesus for the conversion of the poor Indians, for whom she had a very speciall zeal, being contented, she said, if God should give her life and did make some of us to go there, to be one of the first, notwithstanding her weakness, sickliness, and years.

Ofentimes in the sense of her infirmity she said very meekly : *¶ beseech*

you, pray unto the Lord for me, for I am sure I have need of his grace and strength to endure my pains.

Some time before she died, she said to me in much humility: *My worthy Brother, I have not desired pardon of you for all the pains which I have given to you.* And I answering her, the Lord JESUS hath forgiven and attoned all, she replied, *This I had likewise thought.*

A little before her death she did desire to have some beere for refreshment, refusing the rinnish wine which was presented unto her, and which she could not well endure in her sickness. A little after she said, *Let me now stretch out myself, for it is done, it is done.* Whereupon she fell into a soft sleep which was the very sleep of death, for she deceased in the Lord half a quarter of an hour after, with a very great rest, peace & tranquillity.

On this manner hath this soul so much beloved by God & his Children, happily finished her course. She was, to say indeed, not very

sick, but only the two last dayes of her life, for before that, there was as much likelyhood that God would restore her again, as that he would take her out of this world to himself. God gave her to the very last such a great presence of spirit; such a lively memory, such a solidity of judgement, so holy & couragious a confidence, and so perfect a knowledge of all whatsoever her heart did love in God, that one might clearly see, that there was in her an other life then that of the body, which did support, inanimate and more enliven her, then at any time before. She is now with God, and resteth in his bosom from her labour. She is blessed being dead in the Lord, his Grace having prevented her, his Glory having received her, and the works of her love which God gave her to doe, having followed her. She looked little on them in her lifetime, but yet less in her death. And God who is good & faithfull to those that belong to him, hath crowned in her with his Glory the gifts

of his Grace, which in Christ he had imparted unto her. The Lord JESUS be for evermore praised for the accomplishment of his work in her, and to him be given the honour & glory, by all those who shall read this writing, the which we make common by aiming thereat & wishing for it, by the sense of his Spirit, and his divine love.

The last words and dispositions of Hilletje, the daughter of our Brother Hans Simons.

God hath been pleased to give us a new argument of his mercy & grace over this his flock, by taking away, in his unspeakable love, a lamb from the midst of the same to himself. It was the daughter of our brother Hans Simons our carpenter, whom God was pleased to visite with a pining sickness, and great pains, especially at her latter end. But withall he did give her such an amiable patience, perfect resignation of her self to his will, and tender & inward desire to go to him & to die,

that she might be able in heaven fully to glorify him, that we have cause to praise him with all our heart for all what he hath done about this good child to the end. Some time before she came to keep her bed, reading in the Scripture, she lighted on the History of Hagar & her child, c. whom the Lord had compassion in the wilderness, whereas otherwise it must have perished with thirst; and the person with whom she did work, asking her what she had read, and what therein had touched her heart, she answered thereupon sensibly: *I doe admire to see that God doth hearken to the voice & weeping of a child, and hath compassion thereon.* Being asked some time before her death, whether she did beleeve that God by this sickness would take her to himself, she answered; *Yes I beleeve he will; however I hope it of his goodnesse.* And being yet asked wherefore she was so desirous thereof, she said: „To be freed from sin. She added to it, „All that I desire „of God, is that he may be pleased

„thoroughly to purge me, I hope God
 „in his mercy will come unto me,
 „and take me to himſelf, I am ſo
 „glad that I may ſuffer, to go to
 „God! O how great a good is that!
 „I feel, ſaid ſhe, that God is with
 „me, and cauſeth me to feel his
 „peace: and I pray to him that he
 „may be with me to the end, al-
 „though I am very much unworthy
 „of it. One time among the reſt
 „having deſired to ſpeak unto me,
 „ſhe ſaid that ſhe had felt God would
 „have her to tell me, „That ſhe
 „was very ſorry, becauſe ſhe had
 „been ſo little penitent for her ſins;
 „but that ſhe did feel, ſhe muſt re-
 „main to the end in the Spirit of
 „repentance, for to go in that ſtate
 „to God. I likewise beleeve, ſaid
 „ſhe, that God in his mercy will
 „forgive me my ſins for JESUS
 „CHRIST his Sons ſake, whoſe
 „Grace I doe need ſo much. Pray
 „to God, ſaith ſhe at another time
 „to thoſe that were round about her,
 „that even to the end I may keep
 „my ſelf before him, in the Spirit

3^d *Dispositions and last words*
„of repentance. Before this, my
„heart came with much a doe to
„prayer, but now at present it
„goeth as of it self to the Lord &
„without the least labor. Being as-
ked, if God should leave it to her
choice, whether she would live or
die, what she would rather choose,
she answered with much sensibleness;
„I doe very much wish to go to God;
„I am afraid of this life, and I love
„death rather, because I hope that
„God by the means thereof will ful-
„ly unite me with himself. When
she was in very great anguish, and
she was told, that likely the Lord
would speedily come, then she
cryed out, from the bottom of her
heart, *O were I so happy!* Being told
of JESUS CHRIST, how that he
was the only Redeemer of our
souls, and that there was no other
Name given under heaven, through
which we could be saved: then she
answered: *O I feel it so, these words*
doe lively move me. O how beautifull
is he! How good is the Lord JESUS,
said she with much tenderness. Be-

ing asked whether ſhe could thus leave
her Father, ſhe answered affection-
ately, *Oyes*; giving prooffe that ſhe
did rejoyce very much, that ſhe
might go to an other & a better Fa-
ther, then he whom God had given
her here, although in his love. Be-
ing further-more asked, what her
mind was when ſhe was in ſuch an-
guish, and whether ſhe was not for-
ry that ſhe muſt ſuffer ſo much: „O
„no, ſaid ſhe, when ſuch anguiſh-
„ments come, then I think by my
„ſelf, Preſently, preſently it will
„be ended, and I ſhall go to the
„Lord; and the joy which I feel for
„this, doth ſo ſtrengthen me, that
„me thinks that it doth yet keep me
„here. I doe not fear death, ſaid ſhe
with a merry countenance, „for I
„hope that afterwards I ſhall not ſin
„any more againſt the Lord. But
„I muſt yet ſuffer more; I have not
„deſerved to die ſuch a ſoft death.
But yet ſhe died a little while after,
after that ſhe had divers times cryed
out: *God wil be my Redeemer: Jeſus*
is my Saviour. And ſo ſhe died in

his arms dying the death of the Righteous, to whom God doth give Grace, and whom he receiveth into his Glory. This is the first child, which being come to knowledge, God took from the midst of us; and he was pleased to give us comfort there of in his love, shewing how he had blessed that care which we have had for her soul, of which she likewise was very sensible, giving thanks with much love to those who had more particularly instructed her: even as also she hath testified to her Friends, when she spoke with them or wrote to them.

*The last words and dispositions of heart
of our most worthy Sister Dulignon,
deceased in the Lord at Wiewert in
Friesland the 28. December 1680.*

GOd having given this soul from her childhood some feelings & taste of his Spirit, this in some measure kept her back from seeking the vanities & pleasures of this world, and did give her some inclination to that which she did not yet know. Her

eldest Sister *Vincentia vander Haar* being the first of the three sisters, who found her self pressed to seek the Lord, in denying the world; she, who was the second, did feel something in her heart, which did secretly draw her off from what she saw, & did not suffer her to be contented with that, wherewith the common sort of those who are called pious (with whom all three of them began to converse) did in their judgement to easily content themselves. She came purposely in Zealand with her eldest sister, to hear Master de Labadie there: and God afterwards in his providence ordering it, that they did heare us oftentimes in the Hague, so he gave them at the first such an inclination & compliance with what he caused them to hear & see, that they were of the first, whom in that place did perceive that JESUS CHRIST must be followed wholly in an other & more lively & earnest manner.

Particularly our worthy & most happy Sister, to whom God had

given a speciall grace of simplicity & holy innocency, having felt the blessing of God upon that which he caused her to hear to the good of her soul, & Gods providence keeping us then at Amsterdam, after that he had drawn us out of Zealand, she felt a great inclination to come thither; and having obtained leave to come from her Mother, she took part with that good & grace which God did there shew to us. The Lord then came very much to her, and caused himself to be felt very sensibly in her heart. With that impression of grace which she had there received, she returned again for a time to the Hague, where the Lord Jesus caused himself to be felt very inwardly present with her soul, and made himself known to her after an unusuall manner: which did enflame her with new love towards him, and gave her such an affection to his amiable & holy person, that she afterwards did never loose the same.

The Lord afterwards by his speciall providence having brought us to

Herfort in Westphalia, she came there with some others, of whom God was pleased to compose our assembly; and he hath given her generally that grace, all the time that he hath left her amongst us, to be there and live as a true member of this body of J E S U S C H R I S T, which he had in a special manner purchased & sanctified to himself. Her grace did appear sometimes more & sometimes lesse, but we have allwayes perceived in her a ground of innocency, simplicity & purity, which was for great comfort, and which appearing more from time to time, did in a special manner enlarge & shew it self in the last time & years of her life.

For the most part of the time that we were in Friesland, she was visited with a great & long continuing weakness; but she bare the same with a wonderfull strength & courage of minde, and hath given us great matter of thanking God for the assistance & support of his Spirit & grace.

An ague joyning with her ordinary weakness, at seven monthes end she was delivered of her last child; God in a speciall manner strengthening her by his Spirit, and the love of his will and wayes concernin^g her. Afterwards by the continuation of her fits of the ague she did grow much weaker, although sometimes it seemed as if she did something recover. During all this time she did in a speciall manner comfort and edify us. And I can say, that as oftentimes as I talked with her, which was frequently, I never went away from her without thanking God, for the enlargement and encrease of his grace in her, having thought oftentimes, after that I had divers times presented her before the Lord in prayer, that what the Lord did in her soul, was a great argument that he caused her to draw near to eternity, and that likely he would not tarry long before he was to take her into his glory, for as much as he did set forth the work of his grace in her in such a visible and unusuall manner.

Nine dayes before her death, finding her self to be a little better, she took courage to write to her worthy husband my brother Dulignon at the Hague, desiring to give him that comfort, and to answer that sweet and tender love, which he did shew to her by his letters, which she did alwayes receive with deep humility. These are some of the words of her letter: „Your great love maketh me to
”be wholly ashamed. I who am unworthy to be compared with you,
”what have I suffered, or what doe I suffer in comparison of you? If
”I did not committ you and your sufferings to the Lord, my heart
”would be wounded through with smart: but God is specially good
”to me therein, that he taketh away from me all encombrances for
”what matter soever it be. The which I perceive to be as a gift of
”his good hand, unto which I have offered, and yet doe offer my self
”up, both for time and for eternity, in life and death. You may
”hold your self assured, that I doe

"not desire the help and comfort of
 "my sisters, although their pre-
 "sence would be acceptable to me,
 „for the least help which they can
 „shew to you, is more to me then
 „all my comfort. Though you
 „are a far of, yet methinks some-
 „times that my arms reach you, but
 „it is in faith. The Lord grant
 „that it may be once in deed, if it
 „be his good will.

The thursday before her happy
 decease, she said to that sister who
 did help her to rise: "I hope this
 "will be the last time, that I shall
 "have need to have my bed to be
 "made: to morrow is my ague day,
 "ô if the Lord would send me such
 "a good ague, as that it might take
 "me away, and might make me
 "to go to him, how joyfull would
 "it be to me, and how happy would
 "I be! Being afterwards to take some-
 thing, she said as with greef, „what
 „must I yet feed this body, which
 „I would so willingly put of? A cer-
 tain sister coming to visit her, she
 said: „Thus we shall go to the Lord

the one before & the other after. Wait with patience for deliverance from him. There is but little time between both. The one a little sooner, and the other a little later, but thus we shall all go unto him.

On fryday the ague came sooner & stronger then it did before. In the evening she had a faint fit, whilst they did make her head-pillows. But she came again to herself, taking a little wine, and said withall with a joyfull countenance: I thought that the happy minute was come, I knew not whether I would tell it you. Wherefore? asked that sister: „ Because I was afraid, said she, that you would give me something to keep me here.

Having spoken with her that day two or three times, I went to see her again, and found her in that hope that God would soon come to her. At night about three a clock, that sister which commonly helped her, being with her with one more besides, and telling her, because she

found her so weak: Well my sister, the Lord is coming: so she looked upon her with a joyfull countenance and said, *Is it true? Doe you see me to be much changed?* And withall she looked upon her hands & fingers, that seemed to her allready to be grown blue: which did increase her hope, that her dissolution did draw near, and that she should soon be with the Lord, to remain for ever with him. „I love you all heartily, said she to all those that stood round about her, „and I can say, that since the time „that I have known God, I have in „truth not loved the world, nor „those that did love the world, „whatsoever they were; and that my „heart did not go forth, but unto „those that feared & served God. „The world & flesh & blood have „been nothing to me, in comparison „son of Gods children.

When they did shew to her her little child, she said: „My child, „my life is gone over into you „God hath placed you in my stead, „hope that you will be better then I.

„The

„The Lord JESUS bleſſe you.
And the day after ſpeaking to her
other child Benjamin, ſhe ſaid,
„My child I go to the Lord, love
„him & fear him. He hath cauſed
„you to be born among his children,
„you will not have ſo many occa-
„ſions, as I have had to diſpleaſe
„him. I have not educated you for
„my ſelf, but for the Lord, that
„you may better ſerve him then I.
„I aimed at nothing elſe but that,
„and all that I wiſh for you is, that
„you may live for God & for his
„glory.

On that Saturday, which was the
day of her happy diſſolution, ſhe
had great anguiſh of heart, which
made her at the firſt to complain:
for otherwiſe all the time of her ſick-
neſs, and during her manifold pains
& fits of the ague, the leaſt com-
plaint was not heard at all, ſuffe-
ring with ſuch patience & quietneſs
of mind, which ſufficiently mani-
feſted the preſence of God in her
ſoul, and her inward union &
complacency with him.

The same day in the morning she said to us: *God makes me for an example of his mercy, how unprofitable a servant I have been in his house.* This she said with speciall relation to this that she had been sickly for divers years, and not been able to communicate, to the help & service of the other children of the Lord, that which her love did put in her, and made her wish to be able to doe. Hereunto she added: „What cause „then have you all, to hope on his „mercy! Though I am, said she, „unworthy of that grace, to keep „my self at the feet of J E S U S, yet „he gives me a full witness that I am „his, and that he will never cast „me away.

She said, „Notwithstanding my „unfaithfullness, and though I „have not lived for his glory, as I „ought to have done, yet he is so „good to me now. He sealeth unto „me the pardon of my sins, and he „will now at present take me to „himself. O how good is he! How „mercifull & gracious is he!

of Mrs. Dulignon. 51

Turning her self to me, she did entreat me, that I would write to my worthy Brother Dulignon, That she did go with so great joy to the Lord: This, said she, will comfort him in the state wherein the Lord keepeth him. She added more-over: „ I pray, doe not write unto him, when God shall have taken me to himself, that I am dead, but that I live. For I shall live more then ever before; living to the Lord, who is our life. She asked me then, whether her soul should likewise enjoy that good, as to see the glorified body of the Lord JESUS, before she should behold it with the eyes of her body after the resurrection? And it being told her, yes, you shall, as well as the Angels, which have no bodys; so was she hereupon wholly taken up with holy joy, and added thereunto: O how happy a thing will it be, that we shall be able to draw near to his holy person!

And for as much as she suffered much

by reason of the anguish of her heart they gave to her a little Besor for her ease, but she would hardly take it, saying: *That will serve for an other one, as for me I go to God, and whether it be with more or less anguish, is it not all one? That doth not deserve the Besor.*

She had said before to some one; *Let none tell the child, that his mother is dead, but that she is a life in God, that she is with the Lord Jesus in heaven. I know not, said she, this word Death seems to be so strange in this case, me thinks it doth not expresse the thing very well: for to go to the Lord, is indeed not to die. No, I shall not be dead.*

She likewise had said to that person, „Tell my sisters Vincentia & „Mary, when you shall see them, „that I pray to God with all my „heart, that he be pleased to bless „them, and though they have not „been here, that there hath been no „thing wanting to me; the love of „God & of his children having plentifully provided in all things.

She said to us from time to time, *Do you think that the Lord will specially*

of Mrs. Dulignon. 53

come? And I having answered her, that yet that very day she was to go to God, she cryed out for joy, O what good & glad message doe you bring me! And telling her furthermore, that there would be no night for her any more, she protested that this was her only wish, and that she desired no more.

And afterwards turning her self about to us, she said: *I can say that I wish to all of you with all my heart the same good, and that you were all in the same state as I be.* And answering her that such wishes are not usually made, but that indeed it was the greatest which she could wish to us, because there was no greater good then that good whereunto God did call her, then she said: „I have oftentimes thought that if we should take a voyage to sea, and the Lord should then by shipwrack take us all to himself, that it would be a great comfort that we might thus all go together to him.

She said, *One may be very well assured, that death bath nothing terrible for*

54 *Dispositions and last words
the children of God.*

And furthermore she said,
„From my youth God hath made
„himself sensible to my soul, though
„I did not then know him, and my
„heart was yet blind: But thereby
„he did hinder me from being able
„to take my delight in the world &
„what is in the world: and as soon
„as I had found the pure Spirit of the
„Lord in his Servants, I said by
„my self: This is it which thou
„hast sought for, and by this thou
„must keep thy self.

„I can wel say it (went she forth
with a feeling which was very lively
& pure) for God hath done it, and
„it is not but for his glory: that
„when the Lord JESUS made him self
„known to my soul, the world from
„that time forth did vanish away
„from my eyes, and since it hath re-
„mained alwayes vanished. And
„I could not comprehend, how that
„souls, which have felt JESUS,
„could afterwards love any thing
„else but JESUS.

About noon one of our sisters ask-

ing her, whether she would not make use of some broth of veal, or something else, so she answered with joy of heart, „ That I had told „ her that there would be no more „ night for her, and that she could „ very well subsist so long without „ using any thing; adding thereunto, „ that when she had taken any „ thing, thereby her anguish was „ more encreased.

About the same time, when they had shut her courtains, these words were heard to come out of her bosom: *O God, thou canst doe all things; might it please thee to shorten the time!* having no other desire but to be hastily with the Lord.

Her anguishes were oftentimes very great, so that they did hinder her for some time to speak & to say any thing: but afterwards she came out of them again with new strength and vigour, and with a renewing of her joy, because she looked upon that continuall falling again into those fits of anguish, as so many steps which she made towards the Lord

JESUS her Saviour, the beloved of her heart & the eternall Bridegroom of her soul.

In the afternoon being come again to see her, and asking her how she found herself: *I waite*, said she, *for the Lord: blessed is that servant, which waiteth for his Lord, he will not be surprised.* At another time being in great anguish, she said to me: *The Lord, my worthy Brother, will have us to wait upon him, is it not true? One must wait till his minute be come, it is the greatest we can expect.*

O how ready is the Lord JESUS, said she to some sisters who came to see her, *to receive sinners, which are sorry, that they have noth been sufficiently for him, when they doe take their refuge to his divine merits, and doe trust their soules into his hands.* And speaking to some of our brethren, she said, *Be faithfull to the Lord JESUS, my brethren, walk before his face, take but away what may hinder him from having communion with your soules, and you will find that*

of Mrs. Dulignon. 67

„he is wholly ready to cause himself
„to be felt on your heart. To be
„able to say unto the Lord, my
„God, I desire none but thee in
„heaven & on earth, what wilt thou
„have me to doe, that gives a great
„strength, and maketh men to
„walk with heads lifted up. I have
„found that many times by his
„Grace.

When I said unto her, is it not
a great good to have served such a
good Master? she answered me:
*One doth not repent, but only that one
hath not sufficiently served him.*

Benjamin again coming before her
bed, she said to him: „My child,
„I can say nothing else to you, but
„what I have already said. Fear the
„Lord alwayes, and be very obe-
„dient to those that instruct you,
„then you will come to live for ever
„with your Mother in heaven.

She said to a certaine sister, who
for tenderness of heart did weep see-
ing her: „One must not weep, one
„must rejoyce, and praise the Lord.
„Doe not you see, how much cause

„he gives thereunto? and speaking to that sister who takes care for the little children, she said, „God „blesse you, my worthy sister, with „the little ones, take care of them, „and that according to the Lord.

I having told her at noon, Well my worthy Sister, now is the day halfpast, she answered, *Are you then yet of the same opinion, my worthy Brother?*

Doe you beleeeve yet that even this day I shall go to my Redeemer and my God? And at evening going to supper, I asked her, because she seemed to have gotten a little strength again, whether she was not willing to take something? And she answered with sadness: „Must I yet eat, what sad „tidings! I made in my self an other „reckoning: yet if God please I will „try it. And our Brother who hath the care of the sick, having told her before that she had gotten a little more strength, she gave him this answer: *Doe you likewise bring bad tidings: you have told me that I was so near to my end.* She had before that thanked him, and that Sister that

helps him, with much tenderness for their love, and for so many arguments as she had received thereof, especially in her sickness.

After meal coming to see her again, and finding her in greater anguish, she said, as she had done at other times, *that her hope did encrease.* And speaking of my worthy Brother her husband, whose state had appeared as near to eternity as was that of hers, she said, *That she expected to see him in heaven, and never to be separated from him again.*

After that we had again presented her before the Lord as a sacrifice, according to the feeling which he gave me, that it might please him to hear the great & ardent affection of his child and faithfull handmaid, who alone went out to him, she did yet bosom out these words: *I would say with my mother, as she said at the end of her life, I can no more.* And turning herself towards me, she said: *I have never yet been in such an anguish, my worthy brother.* To which I answered that she did put me in mind of our wor-

thy Sister Huyghens, who likewise told me the same a little before her end, but that God took her to himself half an hour after. This did cause her such joy, that her countenance thereby was changed. A little after she yeelded up her spirit, the joy remaining imprinted in her face & eyes, which I did shut unto her, praising God for that unspeakable happiness, unto which he had received this soul, who was so beloved & dear to CHRIST & his children.

I can say to the glory of God, that I doe not beleeeve, that one can easily imagine in any a greater, a more perfect, and a more permanent longing for death, then what we have seen in her; a fuller assurance of going to eternal happiness, a more perfect unsettlement from all what she left in the world; more forgetfulness and holy contempt of herself; and more innocent simplicity in the outgoings of her heart to God & to JESUS her Lord & Saviour, who having prevented & accompanied her with his

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Grace, was pleased to give her to partake of his eternall Glory, after she had lived here on earth the time of 31 years.

The last words and dispositions of our most happy sister Magdalene Henry, which descended in the Lord February 1. in the year 1681. with some of the most remarkable circumstances of her life.

She was born at Metz of parents of the Romish Religion. Her father, which was a Chirurgent, and a man well to passe, dying when she was but three years old, left her in the hands of her mother, which was very worldly, and who desiring to bring her up according to the world, did oftentimes beat her in her youth, because she would wear no locks & ruffles. Even from that time she was against all those vanities, and felt an avernesness from the pride of her mother, who did especially exceed therein. God at that time drawing her heart lively

unto him, gave unto her a generall desire, that she might be able to know him, and to serve him in truth. Oftentimes when she went to the masse & vesper, and there prayed to God, she felt in her heart, that that manner of worshipping God was not acceptable unto him: and having once heard some body speaking of the holy Scriptures, which she might not read, she felt a great & inward desire, to seek out such people which might be able to teach her, in what manner God would be worshipped.

Even from that time she resolved, after that she had pondered all things well, and was a long while in her heart urged thereunto, to betake her self upon her journey, without knowing where to go; hoping that God would guide her, and let her find that which she felt was her duty to seek. Then she spoke with a messenger, which went a foot from Metz to Frankfort, being then 19 years & a half old, desiring him that he would take her with him, though

she knew no body there, and likewise did not at all understand the German tongue. The messenger not being willing to take her with him, except her mother would give consent thereunto, so her mother consented, being weary of the continual opposition of her daughter against her worldly mindedness. Her Guardian, which was not unwilling to keep her goods in his hands, was likewise well contented that she should go where it pleased her. So that the messenger took upon him to take her with him, God fitting all things thereunto according to her wish. She thought indeed at first, to get into her hands the goods which by her father did belong unto her, and could likewise have done it, according to the laws of the country, if she had stayed there but 6 months longer, that is till the age of twenty years: but this was to her impossible, for when she did pray most unto the Lord, that he would make his will known to her concerning this point, so she felt her self to be

constrained very much to depart, being greatly afraid that she might happen to die in these 6 monthes, without yet knowing what the Lord required of her soul, that she would rather leave all there, and follow the inclination of her heart, which she did perceive was from God. Which likewise she did, and that without ever looking back after what she had left in the hands of her Friends, and whereof she hath not enjoyed the least thing.

Thus she went away from Metz towards Francfort with this messenger, and likewise another man and his wife, who also went to that place. In the way she found an unspeakable joy, because that she saw herself to be out of Metz, and in freedom to be able to seek the Lord, untill she had found him. The way did not seem to her to be long, and God preserved her in a speciall manner in the same. Being come to Francfort, she was recommended to the Countesse of Hanau, which having understood that she sought to be

of Magdalene Henry. 65

instructed in the reformed Religion, did direct her to a very good Lady of Cassel, wife of the Marshall Haxhausen, which did receive her with a heart so full of love, that she could not have expected or desired more, though she had been her own mother. God had some short time before powerfully touched and changed the heart of that young Lady, so that she went earnestly about to change the train of her worldly life, which she had led. She changed her house as into a church, in which she caused God to be served with all her power, and did rejoyce that she could likewise receive there & help this stranger, who did earnestly seek God. And seeing that Magdalene, though she did seek to be instructed in the truth, yet would not make confession of the reformed Religion, except she was fully convinced in her conscience, that God did require such from her, she did deal with our sister with great tenderness & speciall circumspection: not willing that she should be disturbed in or urged to

any thing, yet giving her all occasion that she might be instructed. Wherein our sister did see the tender & fatherly providence of God towards her. The conversation & acquaintance of this Lady, and especially her decease, which was very edifying, did very much confirme her in that hope which she had, to find the truth in the reformed Religion. But afterwards she was kept back for some time to receive the same, by reason of the bad example of those with whom she did frequently converse, and especially by that of a Candidate in Divinity, which concerned himself with the instruction of others in the house, but was himself so profane, as to make a scoff & laughing-stock of the words of the holy Scripture; and yet besides by the evill example of the French Minister of Cassell, which being invited to dinner to the place where she dwelt, that he might have opportunity to speak with her, during dinner did nothing else but speak of meat & drink, of good wine,

and meat well prepared, & that after a very fleshly & offensive manner.

Now when she was in great straight, to know what she should doe, praying to God night and day, and turning, as it was, into a skeleton by sorrow, and with a great desire which did even consume her away, to know the right way which leadeth to God: So one day when she kept her self in prayer before Him, she got this impression, that she must not be taken up with those wicked ones which professe the reformed Religion, but that the Religion in it self, or the truth which therein was professed, in opposition to the papacy, was truly according to Gods heart. And for as much as she was oftentimes disquieted, thinking whether she had not done amis in leaving her mother, and the fifth commandment coming often in her mind; then was her heart touched lively by the Lord, when she was before him in prayer, and it was as if this word was said to her by JESUS CHRIST, *Will you for my sake not deny your mother?* Which

at the first was very greevous for her to doe, but yet from that time it became easy to her by the strength of him who had applyed to her that word and command. All this made her to resolve to give her self over to all whatsoever the Lord should require of her; and after she had prayed to him with many tears, that he would not suffer her, to take upon her the profession of the protestant doctrine, for any respect of men which should gladly see it, and that he would hinder that no such thing might be mixed therewith, so she found her self fully resolved thereunto, and she made her confession before a German minister, whose language she had then learned, and whom she hought to fear God more then others. So God brought her to the knowledge of the truth & of the sound doctrine. But her heart seeking a life which in some measure might agree therewith, and having alwayes wished to be with people that did serve God in truth, she was inclined to go for Holland, to see

if God would fullfill her desire. But coming there, she was very sad to find the contrary in the first house, where however she stayed three years, and there the Mistris of the house requiring that she should say something contrary to the truth, she answered with great affection, that she would rather die the most contemptible death, then to wound her conscience thereby. Yet nevertheless the little help she had, & the evill example she saw there were partly the cause that her soul went by degrees far off from the Lord, and that she found herself in a very sad condition. Thus having in this & other occasion displeased her Mistris, she went away from her, and was recommended to Madam of Sommelsdyck to educate a son of her daughter Madam of Offenbergh, in which she did performe her duty with love, and instructing him she did withall herself encrease in knowledge. Afterwards she came in service with the daughter of her Lady, and did in the end remain with Mis-

tris of Sommelsdyck our Sister, whose heart at that time the Lord had touched, with three others of her sisters, and who gave her perfect means to serve God, when from time to time the Lord made us to come in the Hague, and also stay there some time. In the year 1670 she went with her Mistris to Rynbergh, and I afterwards by Gods Providence going into Germany, & stopping a few dayes at the afore mentioned place with Madam of Offenbergh, she was there freed from that sad state & condition, in which her soul had been for divers years, and wherein she had suffered very much within, and likewise had sinned very much in her spirit against the Lord: which was to her as painfull as death. That which she had heard about the state of Job, gave her light & strength, and did revive her hope again, which she in her temptation & conflicts had lost very much. And likewise the Lord **JESUS** made him self one time very sensible to her heart, and gave her a

great impression of the myſtery of his croſſe, which remained lively with her for a long time.

God having brought us at Herfort, ſhe came likewiſe there, and becauſe ſhe did know by long experience, that with all thoſe affections which God had given her, ſhe was but little dead to her ſelf, ſhe ſaid in the way, that ſhe found her ſelf as if ſhe was carried to the ſlaughter. And in that place likewiſe ſhe was much beſet by Gods truth & his Spirit, untill ſhe was through his grace & love conquered quite after an other manner unto him. The Lord did communicate himſelf to her very ſenſibly from time to time, and in a ſpeciall manner at Sonderen near Herfort. But becauſe her ſelf-love did very much mix it ſelf with that grace which ſhe did receive, God hath now & then exerciſed her by inward tryalls, and by divers temptations & deſertions, wherein ſhe hath been to ſuffer, and conſtrained often times to looſe her ſelf in the hands of God, whether it was at Altena,

or here in Friesland. But the Lord hath been indeed good to her in all her way, and after that he had made her to submit unto him, she was in her last sickness (which did continue long, and having begun with a third day ague, was changed into a dayly ague, and at the last into a dropſy) a great comfort to us, by reason of that soft, humble, and patient disposition, whereby she was given over to God, and wherein he granted her to bear the same alwayes, and that through the speciall enlargement of his grace upon her.

When this sickness began to take its course, she felt lively in her heart, that God did call her to suffering and to much suffering; but she said withall, as she had done at more times, that God did give her a love to suffering, and that she for the love of Jesus her Saviour did boldly embrace that part of his crosse which it should please him to give her. And all that time that she hath kept her bed, she hath made it evident, that this love was inward & true, and that she did a fresh receive this grace from
the

the Lord, not only in sense, but in truth. She likewise felt what God did in her was such, that she could not doubt but if he should restore her again, she would live and be wholly after an other manner for him, then till that time she had done. And in the beginning her ague fits coming first against night she gave thanks to God that he granted her to be able to doe something at day time, to serve him and his Children.

A certain morning, when the night before she had been very bad, I being come to visit her, and desiring her to put me in mind again of the most speciall circumstances of her former life, which she did with much presence of spirit, and a very lively feeling of that grace which God had bestowed upon her; giving me there by means to note concerning her former conversation, what thus far I have done.

God in this sickness hath touched her heart very lively about her former sins, but for as much as he humbled her before him for her corrup-

tions, and caused her in uprightness to take her refuge to his grace, and to the blood of Jesus Christ her Saviour: so we saw the same so evidently to vanish away, that we could not but be sensibly moved thereby. We can say that right the contrary to what was most naturall and proper to her, did appear always in her, and that the grace of Jesus Christ did cause it self to be well seen and felt in her in this last and happy time, in which he was pleased to take her to himself.

She said, *I many times think when I lie in my bed fit, and am so thirsty, without daring however to drink much, O when I shall come to the Lord, how shall I drink, O how shall I drink, how shall I quench my thirst!*

Once coming to visit her, she desired very sensibly that I should pardon her, and likewise my worthy Brother, for all the pains which she had given to us in the guidance of her soul. She did likewise entreat with all her heart all those that were in the house of the Lord, that they would

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pardoned her the faults which from time to time she had committed against them, and those defects which in such occasions might have appeared; earnestly entreating me that I should tell them of it in her name.

One of our sisters afterwards coming to her, she said to her: *Although at present I be withered and dry, and have but little feeling, yet however I do feel that it would grieve me if I was yet to stay longer in this life. I have always been very desirous after the comforts and feelings of God, but now I leave myself to the Lord, and am fully contented to die in that state of barrenness. My Lord Jesus, said she furthermore, is come to seek his lost sheep, and begiveth me hope that he will bring me into his eternall Sheepfold.*

Which being confirmed to her by this sister, she lifted up her eyes to heaven, and said with much sense and tears: *Is it possible my Lord that thou wilt doe for me that great good, for one who am such a great sinner!*

God gave her after that a wonderful quietness of heart, so that she said unto me with much love and

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thankfullness: „I have nothing to
„fight against, the Lord Jesus hath
„overcome all. She added hereunto
„to, I had never beleaved, that the
„Lord would give me such great a
„peace, and so discharge me from
„all things.

„I have, said she, before hung fast
„to my children, but now no more,
„leave them by the grace of the Lord
„wholly into his hands, and in those
„of his Children. I had a speciall
„love for the eldest, because some-
„times I saw some beam of the Lord
„in him: and I hope likewise that
„the Lord will shew mercy and grace
„to him.

Some dayes afterwards she said to
me, *that if God pleased she should yet*
live here longer, she must be resolved to it
but that she could well say that it should not
be without sensible mortification. And
furthermore she said, fighting to the
Lord from the ground of her heart
O when will it be that my God will come
when will he approach to take me to him
self! And telling her that she shortly
should have no need of our brother

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who taketh care of the sick, she answered with a joyfull mind: *I have oftentimes wished that the time might come, that he might have no more occasion to take pains about me, and I would heartily thank him for all what he hath done for me in love, and I am willing to doe it, even from this time; hoping that we should tell her, that there was nothing for her to use for the recovery of her health, and that there was nothing to be expected but her happy departure.*

Telling her that being to go to the Lord, she should say unto him with all her heart that word of Stephen the first martyr, which I had always much loved: *Lord Jesus receive my spirit*: she answered very affectionately, *O that blessed and very lovely word!* and she did repeat it with a great savour, and with a lively and very tender sense.

Some one at that time coming to visit her, she said unto him, *My heart is at rest. I know not what else to say, I rest in the Lord. He knows that I am weak, and he is strong for me. And*

he afterwards telling her, that God was very good to her, and that he did all things well: O, said she taking up the word, *O he doeth all things so well, he maketh all things so well that one can not wish them to be better.* Another person who also was there saying unto her as she went away the Lord strengthen you my sister, she answered, *Alas what should I be if he did it not!*

The Lord being willing to take her speedily to himself, and without the presence of many, did find it good some days before whilst we were in the Assembly, to make her so weak, that she thought she should then die, as there was also much likelihood of it. That sister which was with her, and likewise her husband our Brother, were at that time much comforted, to see her in the state wherein she was. She said divers times, *My good Jesus, my beloved Lord, will you come to take me to thyself? My Jesus will you be so good to me that even this day thou wilt make me come unto thee?* And telling her

You doe with very much to go to
the Lord Jesus? she answered with
all her heart, „O yes, my dear Sis-
ter, this is all my good, ô did he
„but come, that good Lord. O
„how specially good hath God been
„to me, that he hath brought me to
„his Work among his Children!
„Could we dare to pretend to that
„good which there he hath shewen to
„us? O how good is God! O how
„good hath he been unto me: But I
„have not felt it sufficiently. Where
upon she did in uprightness humble
her self for her sins, being ashamed
before God and his Children, with
much lively feeling and humility of
heart. She said, „I have oftentimes
„shewen a spirit which was hardly
„to be contented in respect of that
„good God, and who hath been so
„good to me. O how much cause
„have our worthy Brethren had to
„tell me of that! Furthermore she
said, looking upon her corruption:
„I have a thousand and thousand
„times admired at that great mercy
„of my God, who was willing to

„ shew mercy to such a creature as I
 „ am, and I have with my selfoften-
 „ times said before him, Lord is it
 „ possible, that you should have re-
 „ ceived such an evill creature! She
 added to it, „ I condemn all my sins,
 „ and doe humble my self before the
 „ Lord for them, and I pray to God
 „ and his Children to forgive them
 „ all.

A little while after being much
 moved she said: *My good Jesus, wilt
 thou be so mercifull to me, that at present
 thou wilt fully wash me clean in thy Blood?
 How great is that grace! how unworthy
 am I of it! Come my Lord Jesus, draw
 me quickly unto thee, My Lord Jesus, I
 desire none but thee.*

That sister which talked with her,
 asked if she desired any thing of her,
 and she answered, „ I have nothing
 „ upon my heart, except if you be
 „ pleased to have a little eye, parti-
 „ cularly upon the children, when
 „ God shall have taken me to himself.
 „ This I entreat of you simply, as
 she proceeded, „ because I find my
 „ self inclined thereunto, and not

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„because of the least incumbrance
„which I have thereunto: no I have
„none by the Grace of God, no
„more then if I had no children, nor
„any thing in the world. When we
„go to God, then we must set all
„things a side. God and the soul,
„and no more. Likewise I can tell
„you with an upright heart, that
„the only desire which I have, is
„to go to my God & to JESUS my
„Saviour.

And yet proceeding on she said:
Though I am very unworthy, yet he cau-
seth me to feel his holy rest, and leads me
to him without care That sister saying
to her, Then you doe depart in rest,
and you shall enter as with full sail
into the blessed haven of glory, into
the bosom of the living God? so she
answered: *Yes, JESUS CHRIST*
my good Lord reacheth the hand to me. He
will draw me, and give me the happines
to arrive there I doubt not on it, I trust
on JESUS my Lord.

After that she had been silent some
time, she began to pray & to groan.
after the coming of God and JESUS.

Christ to her, and turning her face she said: „ My worthy sister, pray „ fervently that my God may come, „ and that his good Spirit may support me to the end. Death is a way „ which is something narrow, pray „ to the Lord Jesus, that he may „ lead me through it. And a little „ after waxing fain, she further „ said, I beleeve that I shall thus softly go away.

One of our sisters being then come to her bed, and talking with her about the happiness of those who die in the hands and love of Christ, she said to her very sensibly: *I have earnestly entreated the Lord Jesus, that he would come, and he hath answered me. He cometh, and is come.* And lifting up her arms, and clapping them together, she went on, *yea me thinketh I doe already embrace the Lord Jesus.* Yet then she was in great distress, and endured much by reason of a generall convulsion of her sinews. And this sister, telling her, that she suffered much, but that it was the way which we must passe to come to the Lord.

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Jesus she answered with a laughing mouth, which expressed the great contentment of her heart: *O that is nothing at all, I doe much rejoyce at it: for all this bringeth me nearer to Jesus.*

Likewise from the beginning of this sickness she had a great impression that God would take her to himself by the way of suffering: „O „said she, suffering is so good to „me, I have so much need of it; „me thinketh, if an other of Gods „children did suffer my pains, the „same would bear them wholly after „an other manner; yet however I „must acknowledge, that the Lord „Jesus hath given me something of „his patience. For he indeed it is, (as she went on with an unspeakable tenderness towards the Lord Jesus Christ) it is he alone who giveth it to me, I know that of my self I am „nothing else but impatience and „rebellion.

God a little while after gave us that comfort as to see her all together, and to bless him for that state wherein he kept her. We came then to

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her, because it did seem that even yet on that day she was to passe over to the eternall mansion of our heavenly Father. And she, being cherished and comforted to see us roundabout her, cried out praising God: *O noble company which thou givest unto me my God at this my departure!* *O could I take you all with me,* said she to us! *O what great good is it, to have served the Lord from the heart!* *O how doe I love you!* going on speaking to the Lord Jesus, *Thou art my good Lord and my Saviour.* All whatsoever the Lord made me to say, whether speaking to her, or praying and presenting her before the Lord, had a lively entrance into her heart, and it kept her as in a holy extasy of spirit, so that we were all lively touched therewith, praising and glorifying God, for powring forth his grace upon her, Telling her then: my beloved sister indeed you go unto the Lord with all your heart, and there is nothing that keepeth you here. *Not a thread,* said she, with such a lively feeling, as that even the sound of her voice

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could sufficiently witness that she spoke from the inward bottom of her heart. We telling her that one of our sisters, who with the rest could not come unto her, because she was sick, did expect shortly to see her in heaven, hoping that God likewise in a short time would take her out of the world, so she answered very sensibly, and being wholly penetrated with that great happiness which is in dying in the Lord: *God grant her that grace. Tell her that I wish it to her with all my heart.*

However God found it good to deferre her deliverance as yet, and to give her some ease. And against night seeing she complained that she slumbered much, and one told her, that she should but rest because her work was done, Christ having done it for her, and was come himself to dwell in her, then she answered, *O if that were not, I should not be so quiet.*

The same person having desired to watch with her for the night, thinking that likely it would be the last, so she said to her, awakening after

she had taken a little rest, *O my worthy sister, I am afraid that you will be deceived, and that I shall not yet go to heaven.*

Besides God would yet exercise her with suffering, and some days after, being in great anguish by reason of the water which did even choake her heart, then she said, *I can say as did David, the waters are come unto my soul.*

Being very much taken up with that good which God had done to her by that aide & conduct which he had given unto her in his Church, she then said with much sensibleness of heart to a sister, *O what great cause have we to be faithfull to God!*

Her pains and distress growing very great, and God giving her a lively feeling, that she must bear the same with more patience, so she passed one night in some anguish of heart before his Face, confessing her sins, and feeling her self unworthy to be received into his grace. But God so ordering it that I did speak to her in the morning, she then lifted up her

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self again, and strengthening her self and giving her self a fresh over to God, she spoke with great affection, *I will embrace all the words of the Lord, And waite for him in a patient and humble spirit: pray to the Lord, I beseech you, that he may be pleased to make me truly humble.*

The next night God did again very sensibly draw near to her, and did fill her with so much joy, that she could not containe the same nor expresse it, *My God doth come*, she cryed out. *My God what doe not I owe to thee, I wait on thee, and will always wait on thee.* And although she had been very weak yet however she went to sing with a loud voice the 31 psalm, *O Lord I put my trust in thee*, and some words of the song of Mary on the feet of Jesus*. And that sister which watched with her saying to her, the Lord will soon cause you to sing the new Song of Jesus our King, she answered with fullness of heart, *Yea I shall sing it with all the desire of my soul, and I shall satisfy my self therewith.*

* In a certain Book of ours called Holy Songs.

She hath somtimes had a great fear for death, which caused her indeed much trouble; but one of us asking her if she had not now lost the fear of death, so she answered „yes I have, „and so perfectly that not so much as „the shadow thereof remained. It „is God who hath done it, I could „never deliver my self from it. But „the Lord hath done it in a moment. „I am his creature, I give my self over into his hands.

At last God would deliver her, according to her great desire. It was on a saturday before noon, the first of February, that he came so unexpected to take her to himself, that scarce any should have known it, if the good dispensation of God had not ordered it so that then I was with her. She did for two or three days seem to be much better then formerly. I had spoken with her on fryday, the day before her death, and admonished her of something which God required of her, which she did receive with a humble heart, and a great affection, and did practice it with

of Magdalene Henry. 89

great faithfullness. In the morning finding her self better, and the Lord seeming to be willing to lengthen her sufferings, she then prepared her self to bear them with new strength and love. But it was within few hours after that God came to end it. His Spirit moving me to go to visit her before meal, so I found her in great anguish, and after that I caused something to be given to her for her refreshment, and she had spoken to me some words with much heart and love, and assuring me she was dying, so I presented her to the Lord Jesus Christ, after that I had with some words strengthened her. This being done she slept in the Lord softly, yeelding her spirit in the arms of her husband which supported her, and in the presence of divers brethren and sisters, who then were come unto her. Thus God hath finished her cours, giving us infinite matter for to thank and praise him for the mercy which he hath shewed to this his handmaid, and for that eternall good which he hath communicated

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unto her in his blessed bosom,
whereunto he hath received her for
ever. She was then come to the 40.
year of her age.

The generall dispositions and last feelings of
Mr. Dulignon, faithfull Pastor
of this Church.

MASTER Dulignon, my very
worthy Brother and faithfull
fellow-labourer in the work of the
Lord, was born at Marvegeols in the
Province of Languedock of a father
who loved him in a speciall manner,
& spared nothing for his education,
whether it was with him self, or at
Angouleme where he made him to be-
gin his studys, or at Saumur where
he did continue the same, or in his
journeys for Holland and England,
from whence he came again to Paris,
where he remained about two years.
Beginning there to get an averſeness to
the world and train thereof, then he
felt some inclination to the study of
divinity, as being fit to draw him of
from all affections to this age, and

to cause him to turn his thoughts towards heaven. Mr. Drelincourt, who had him in love and estimation did shew himself to be very glad for his resolution, conceiving great hopes that it would tend to the good of Gods Church, if he gave himself to the building up of it. And his father gave willingly his consent thereunto, though he had formerly other thoughts concerning this worthy son. All this made him resolve to go to Geneva, where he thought to find more help to the end which he propounded to himself, and had then yet but a weak aim to it. As soon as he was come there, and had heard Mr. de Labadie, his heart was as captivated by the speciall and unusuall matters which he found in that Man of God. And even from that time he took his resolution to put himself under his oversight. And going to visit him he desired that he might dwell in his family: and so he came to his house, notwithstanding the other recommendations, which he had to other persons and Ministres at Gene-

va. Even as the Lord had then all ready brought me to that place, and I dwelled with Mr. de Labadie, whom I have known and loved from my youth at Montauban, so my worthy Brother and I felt then first a tender and mutuall friendship to arise in our hearts, which the grace of God did sanctify, and in successe of time did make so firm and perfect as might be seen, and which through his mercy shall never end.

The customs of the world being very deeply rooted in the heart of my worthy Brother, they therefore were not so suddainly rooted out: but after divers great fits, he at the last gave himself wholly up unto the Lord, and yeelded him self uprightly into his hands, denying himself with all his heart. Then we could first love one the other truly. And then likewise God made us one heart and one soul, through his Spirit and love. Divers of our friends had with us gotten a tast in the truth of Christian life, which Mr. de Labadie did set forth with an admirable

force and with a light and purity which was fit to enlighten others, and to touch their heart, but they were not faithfull, and coming again to them selves did return to the accustomed train of the world. But God, who in his goodness from my childhood had given me a lively impression of his service, and did much encrease the same whilst I was at Geneva, gave me that great comfort to be able to go to him in the company of this faithfull friend in whom he did work in such a powerfull manner, and whom he did joyne together with me very nearly and intimately with his faithfull servant Mr. de Labadie. We did so spend together the two last years of our staying at Geneva, that our heart with reason, was much touched therewith, as often as we since that time have thought on it. The Lord was very good to us, and did vouchsafe to communicate him self so to our soules, that we owe him eternall thanks for his mercy and grace.

M. de Labadie having done to-

wards the reformation of Geneva during seven years time, all what his zeal and the extraordinary grace of God wherewith he was indowed did put him in mind, and to which it had set him on; and seeing how little reall fruit he gathered for the Lord, although great alterations did happen from time to time, and he was followed by a great concourse of people, and was much regarded, and heard with much applaus; so he resolved to accept of the call which he had to go to Middelborgh, which was sent to him without any particular expectation, although long before we had firmly beleaved and expected, that the Lord should draw us out of Geneva, by the ways which him self should prepare thereunto. He then opening this way, we all three perfectly felt, (after we had oftentimes consulted the Lord in prayer) that it came from him, and that it would be the way, whereby he would give us means that we might come to doe his work in these united Provinces. We

were in hopes that we should be able
there to produce more true and essen-
tiall fruits, then at Geneva, a city
which giving it self the name of Je-
rusalem, was truly like to her in
this, that she did wonderfully pre-
sume upon the outward privileges
which it had received from the Lord,
and did hold her self much contented
with a worship of God, very like
unto that whereby formerly Jerusa-
lem thought to be able to satisfy him.
As for the rest she did much harden
her self against the word that the
Lord caused to be offered to her,
greeving very much the spirit of that
faithfull servant of God, which did
wholly burne with zeale for the wel-
fare and reparation of the Church,
which he found in all places to be
much decayed and deformed.

Mr. Dulignon my very worthy
and blessed brother, being with me
fully resolved to accompany this
Man of God in all the ways which
it should please the Lord to take with
him, and being more then ever in-
clined, to dedicate our selves to the

building up of the Kingdom of God
and to the help and salvation of his
Elect, so we were fully determined
to go with him. But for as much as
on the one side it was very hard for
Mr. de Labadie to get out of Geneva
because the people would not let
him go, and without doubt would
have hindered him, if they had
known the time of his departure. And
on the other side he would have run
great danger if the Savoyers, which
did spy out his passage, and others of
the Romish Religion, had gotten
knowledge thereof; therefore we were
forced to stay till the providence of
God it self should offer to us some
convenient opportunity. Even so
also it happened. And after such a
manner that we with reason did
admire at it, and were together
freed from all danger. A Colony of
Waldenses or inhabitants of the Valley
of Piemont, being persecuted
for the truth, were resolved to go
over to Germersheim in the Palz
near by Heydelbergh, and were
just at that time to passe through Ge

Geneva and Switzerland, which likewise was the way which we were to pass through. Mr. de Labadie having acquainted the chief of them the thoughts which we had to joyn ourselves with them, and in their company, but unknown, to go to the Paltz, so this was received by him with great joy, as who long ago had known the reputation of Mr. de Labadie, and had much love for him after that he had heard him to preach at Orange and Geneva. The only difficulty which occurred, was that having no let pass but only for eighty persons, so we should have given occasion by the increase of the number, in popish places, which we were to pass, to make an examination which might have discovered us. But God himself took order therewith, even at that time when they were to depart; in as much as three of the eighty persons were suddainly taken sick; and being necessitated to stay at Geneva, they left their three places open, which we supplied: so that the number of the persons which was menti-

oned in the letpafs did remain intire. Having then changed our cloths, Mr. de Labadie, Mr. Dulignon, and I, with the break of day we went out of Geneva, and came to the vessell of these good people, who did wait for us at the lake Lemman about half an hour going from Geneva. We were there received with great love, although we were at the first unknown to the most of the persons; but in time as they came to know that they had Mr. de Labadie in their company, they then were very glad for it. But they kept it always very secret. We went through divers dangers in our passage through the Switser cantons contrey which are of the Romish Religion, especially at Philipsburgh and at Brisack; but the Lord delivered us out of all, and himself gave us opportunity to make a Church of our vessell, and to be able therein to preach his word mornings and evenings and more times of the day. Those good people shewed themselves especially glad that they had us with them, and they did wish

much that they might have my Brother or me to continue with them to have a Pastor after their own heart. But God called us elsewhere. We then at the last came into these Provinces with Mr. Menuret, whom we had known and Gods providence caused us to meet at Heidelberg.

Being come to Utrecht where we were received with great affection, by Mr. Voetius, Mrs. Van Schurman, and all her friends: then Mr. de Labadie did presently protest that he was resolved to have a warr with the world in his assembly at Middleburgh, preparing himself either to drive it out of the same, or else to be driven out of it by them. Being come there we found that assembly in a miserable and deplorable state; and those that most feared God, longing and waiting for the coming of Mr. de Labadie, for to take order about divers horrible misrules which were found as well in the heads of members, so he took it presently to hand with faithfulness and

zeal, and the Lord gave us all a large field to labour in, both in publick and in particular for the welfare of souls and for the reformation of that poor Church, which the world had almost swallowed up. But all those which would not hear any thing to be spoken of the reformation of life joyning together, and being afterwards assisted by the wallish Synod, wherewith we had oftentimes to do, and the last time about the business of Mr. Wolzogen, so we had not a little to suffer in those 4. years time whilst we were in that place. In the mean while the Lord employed my worthy Brother in many things, as well in Holland as at Utrecht, and even here in Friesland. And he made use of him for the good of his Work, and for the edification of many souls, whether at Rotterdam where he was much beloved by Mr. de Rochefort, and where having preached the word of the Lord for some time, the whole consistory in the occasion gave an authentick witness in his favour;

or in a speciall manner at the Hague, where he stayer frequently a long time, the Lord there blessing singularly his word and conversation, even as also in other places, and accompanying it with the assistance of his grace, for the instruction and the help of many. God afterwards having brought us to Amsterdam, and after divers great trials calling us also to Herfort, then he went to speak to the Lady the Princess Elizabeth, to try her dispositions, in which she shewed herself to be confirmed in a speciall manner after she had seen and spoken with our Brother, making it known to many what great satisfaction she had in that which she found in this servant of God. When we were come to Herfort, then the Lord enlarged his grace and Spirit more and more in my worthy Brother, and did use him to his service, whether it was in that place or whether it was again in Holland or at Altena by Hamborrow, where he did afterwards gather us all together, and did continue to powr

out his blessing upon our souls and assembly. When in that place the Lord had taken to himself his faithfull servant Mr. de Labadie, then I and my worthy Brother felt ourselves as newly united again, and very narrowly bound, having never had the least difference between us in the guidance of Gods work amongst us. He came here in Friesland to view the place before we came over, and having stayed afterwards at Altena with a part of our assembly, so he followed us some time after for our mutuall comfort. And so it was here where first appeared that evill with which the Lord visited him, to the glory of his Name and to manifest his grace in a speciall manner, at the end of his life.

Having a very moist head, he was much incommodated by many sharp defluctions, which formerly whilst we were yet at Middleburgh, did use to fall upon his eyes even so farr as that he was like to loose his sight thereby; and afterwards diverse times upon his heart: which did of

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tentimes cause suddain faintness. And it seems that those humors having changed their cours, did fall upon his chinne and there did forme an evill, which divers did beleeve to be a sort of canker, but which at the end was found to be otherwise.

He was therefore fain to suffer much pain; whether because of the evill it self, or by the very painfull cures which were used about it. The first was at Amsterdam, under the oversight of Doctor Helvetius, who dealt with him in much affection & love, at the house of our worthy Brother Mr. Bardewisch, which was very glad to have him to stay with him as long as his cure should require it.

When they were come to an incision to begin the curing of his evill, which was done by Corrosives, he suffered all with very great patience, and at that time he did write to me divers things that were very moving, of which I make no difficulty here to relate some extracts of them. Thus he uttered him self about his state

January the 14. 1679. „ If the
„ Lord was not my strength, I
„ should soon faile, but he doth not
„ withdraw his goodnes from me.
„ He will continue the same to me,
„ if it be his good pleasure, to all what-
„ soever his will shall be concer-
„ ning me in this my particular state.
„ The hand of the Lord is nothing
„ at all hard, but contrarily is very
„ soft towards me, and truly it is the
„ hand of such a father as our God is.
„ He keepeth me by his grace prepa-
„ red to all his divine will, and
„ whatsoever he shall will, I hope of
„ his infinite love, he will grant me
„ to will the same with him, and to
„ love it with all my heart. He
„ hath shewed me very reall argu-
„ ments of his love, and as I did say
„ but yesterday, I feel that I am a
„ sinner whom he Loveth. In his
letter of the 17. are found these
words: „ It is a very reall comfort to
„ be given up unto the will of the
„ Lord, and in all things to depend
„ on him. How lovely is that way,
„ to leave one self wholly unto him!

„how necessary and comfortable! if
 „souls oftentimes did know better
 „what is to be found therein, they
 „would not find so much trouble to
 „go in it. But self-love blindeth men,
 „and maketh them most miserable
 „that suffer them selves to be posses-
 „sed therewith. On the 20. he wrote
 to me these words: „That part which
 „lovemaketh you to take in that
 „which concerneth me, giveth me
 „speciall matter to praise and thank
 „the Lord, and I pray to him to
 „grant me that I may glorify him,
 „for all his goodness towards me,
 „the remaining part of my life, in ex-
 „pectation of the eternall praise and
 „love which I wish to give him, e-
 „ven as he is infinitely worthy there-
 „of. The Lord maketh me from
 „day to day to feel his soft hand,
 „but I doe very well find that I must
 „no less depend on his liberty, then
 „at that time when this evill is most
 „sensible to me. He can if he thin-
 „keth it fit, yet again visit me with
 „it, and he might send me also a
 „greater and more reall. He hath

„all power over me, who have deser-
„ved nothing but his wrath. On
the 26. he did write with much ten-
derness of heart, and with an impres-
sion of humility, wherewith his
heart was so full and so much pene-
trated: „I am in some measure asha-
„med, my worthy Brother, that for
„such a small inconvenience, you
„doe all partake so much in that
„which I suffer. That tenderness
„moverh me much; but I feel before
„the Lord, that it passeth above what
„my condition is and requireth in
„his presence, yet for as much as it
„pleaseth him to give that heart, I
„therefore like and accept with love
„and thankfulness the demonstrati-
„on thereof. This very thing is a
„fruit and issue of his goodness to-
„wards me through his Children:
„and I thank him for it, even as I
„feel very well that I am thankfull
„to them for it, and especially to
„my worthy Brother, who doth de-
„monstrate the same so much to me.
„It is true till this time the Lord
„hath been pleased to keep me from

„time to time in some suffering,
 „and perhaps his way will be to let
 „me pass through more of the same.
 „It is also true that his hand, who
 „hath prepared all this for me doth
 „support and strengthen me by
 „much goodness, causing me to
 „love his way, and to have a will to
 „glorify him therein. But surely,
 „my worthy Brother, I am very sen-
 „sible before him that all things are
 „very imperfect, & very farr of from
 „that which I owe him and he re-
 „quireth from me. I am satisfied
 „through his long-suffering and
 „mercy in all my imperfections,
 „especially because they are to me
 „a particular cause to humble my
 „self under him. But he will have
 „us to know well by experience
 „that all our sufficiency is from
 „him, and that without him we can
 „do nothing. he is not only the
 „cause and support of all the good
 „which is in us, but he is also
 „the perfection thereof. He will be
 „all this in me & all whatsoever more
 „is necessary according to his plea-

„sure, in all whatsoever he shall re-
„quire to the eternall glory of his
Name. The 28. I received from him a
letter out of which I shall relate these
following words which did shew that
his cure was to continue, as also it did:
„My disposition is not so well as
„it hath been for some days since,
„because my pains have encreased
„my feavers, and have taken away
„much of the rest which formerly I
„had, the Lord will lessen the one
„and give the other as it shall please
„him. There is nothing to be said
„about any thing that he doth, he
„be blessed for it for evermore.
„The cure of my accident is like to
„continue, if the Lord of his good-
„ness doth not shorten it. For as
„much as our sister M. doth write
„to you hereof, I will say no more
„concerning it. I take part with the
„suffering of our sister Y. And
„I wish that I may be able to shew
„it more particularly. But God,
„who is not only our supply but
„also our truth in all things, will
„also supply that want of the demon-

„stration of my heart which I wish I
 „could do to her. I entreat her that
 „she love his Dominion. He will not
 „have us to bear the name of his sub-
 „jects in vain. He is our Lord and
 „our King: We will call him so,
 „and we do well for he is so. And
 „that he cometh to us in all such
 „manner as he doth is to make us to
 „have experience as well of the truth
 „as of the loving-kindness of this his
 „Dominion over us. The 4. of Fe-
 „bruary he wrote unto me concerning
 „his state with these words: „ what
 „concerneth my condition I know
 „not what to write unto you, but
 „I feel very well that my cure, if
 „God will be pleased to give it me,
 „must come from him. Those that
 „labour about it do it with affec-
 „tion, but the blessing must only
 „come from him, without which
 „nothing can be done. They have
 „hitherto made use of corrosives,
 „which have caused pain to me; but
 „the hand of the Lord, which is
 „likewise the hand of our Father,
 „hath supported me. What concer-

„neth the future, I believe it must
„be much left to him, and as for
„me I well perceive, that it is his
„will that I must remain always
„in a totall resignation of my self
„to him: and that portion is
„much to be beloved. He is my
„God and likewise will be my good
„Father to all eternity according to
„his good pleasure. This is enough
„to me. I am satisfied with all
„whatsoever his will shall be concer-
„ning me, if it pleaseth him all-
„ways to continue to me that spirit
„and heart, as I hope this of his infi-
„nite mercy. He did write unto me
the 7. of the same month: It pleaseth
„the Lord in small things to instruct
„me much, whether it be in respect of
„him self and of his wonderfull help,
„or in respect of my self, to cause
„me to have experience how greatly
„and continually I have need of the
„Spirit of God without exception
„of any. But how tender is his
„love! How powerfull is his
„strength! How lovely is his faith-
„fulness! How confirming is his

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„presence, and all his ways sutable
„to his wisdom and love, especially
„when it pleaseth him to let our
„souls see somthing of that wisdom,
„wherein he bestoweth all things on
„those that are his, yea even to the
„least thing. I do receive my les-
„sons, my worthy Brother, in lit-
„tle, even as the great Belevers and
„men of God have received theirs
„in greater ways, and in occasions
„which were proportioned to the
„great measure of grace, and ac-
„cording to the speciall purposes of
„the Lord concerning them. I do
„however wish that in a speciall
„manner I may praise him the re-
„mayning part of my life and for
„ever, for that which his mercy
„vouchsafeth to do in me, to in-
„struct me more concerning my self
„and him. The same accidents
„which God sendeth to the world
„and to his own, must certainly be
„looked upon intirely with an other
„eye in the one then in the other;
„and even as in the dispensing of
„them he hath quite differing aims,

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„so likewise we must use & receive
 „them otherwise as men commonly
 „do; the Lord having no other
 „aim in his designs about those
 „that are his, but to do them more
 „good, and to make them more ac-
 „ceptable to him that he may have
 „more his divine pleasure in them.
 On the 14. he uttered this truth in
 one of his letters: „I have some-
 „times been touched herewith, that
 „as the Lord hath caused us lively to
 „feel, that as it was his will we
 „should see nothing but him in the
 „way of loving-kindness & light,
 „wherein he hath caused us to walk
 „a long time; he would likewise
 „teach us, not to see nor will any
 „thing but him in the way of any
 „suffering he doth send to us. And
 „indeed he is no less in this last as in
 „the former. Yea he causeth many
 „times such a true & pure joy to be
 „found therein, that all other con-
 „tentment can not be compared
 „therewith. On the 21. He did
 write to me these following words:
 „Our state is reasonably well by the

goodness of the Lord, and he hath shewed the same to me in particular very much, having supported me during those pains, which thus farr have been necessary for the curing of my evill, and strengthening me when they are but a little less, and not bringing upon me such heavy feavers which by their continuance according to their ordinary course would quickly have brought me down. But it is the loving-kindness of this good Physitian & Father, whom I must acknowledge, and for which I must thank him. What concerns my accident in particular, they took of a crust yesterday, which was made by the corrosive, and seeing it was very thick, they think that it is gone pretty deep towards the bottom of the evill. The Lord who doth direct & dispose all things according to his mind & good pleasure, will put an end to it, when it shall please him, if his divine will be so. He maketh us to love his will. which causeth

„our separation according to the bo-
„dy to continue longer, then hath
„been thought, but I hope he will
„give so much the more comfort,
„when his good hand will cause us all
„meet together again. I recom-
„mend the condition of our sick to
„his love, and I pray to him that
„through the same he may blese
„them in all what he sendeth unto
„them. Likewise the state of the
„souls of all the brethren and sis-
„ters, whether those that are nearer
„by or further of, toucheth me sen-
„sibly, and I pray Likewise to the
„author of that great mercy which is
„shewed to our souls, that he will
„encrease the same to them, and con-
„firm them therein, and make
„them faithfull to the same, and
„to grant them to walk worthily of
„the same before him. That pure
„Spirit is very little to be found,
„and happy is he who hath a little
„true oil in his lamp. O what a
„great gift is that! and how much
„are we bound to dispise all things
„for it, yea also to deny our selves

that we may purely possess the
 same. I pray to the Lord with
 all my heart, that he may be plea-
 sed to let this sense go into the
 ground of my heart, and as into
 the marrow of every one of those
 whom his love will give to us, even
 as also of those whom his love hath
 already given to us. There are
 indeed few lamps, which burn in
 the presence of God, or which be
 in state to burn throug the good &
 pure Spirit, and if the Lord in some
 measure doth grant us that benefit,
 what doe not we owe to this love?
 I doe greet with much tendernes
 all the Church of the Lord which
 he hath formed amongst us, and as
 many he calleth thereunto, and
 those who do endeavour to please
 him, and to serve him in truth.
 And although I do not name
 them by name, yet they are not
 therefore less present to me in my
 spirit, and the condition of each
 of them doth nothing the less go to
 my heart. After this cure had
 continued long, and my worthy

Brother had suffered very much by the continuall application of corrosives, so it pleased the Lord to close the wound which his hand had made, as he did write unto me Aprill the 11 in these words: „From this day „through the goodness of the Lord, „they began to put a little ledden „plate upon the wound, as being „closed up. I have no more pain „on it, and it seemeth that the Lord „will end all things through his „goodness. He grant me of his infinite mercy that I may live wholly „a new life to his glory, and to the „glory of Jesus Christ his beloved „Son, my Saviour & King to all „eternity,

He had divers times an inclination to write a common letter to those whom the Lord in his love hath joyned to us, and in his House doth keep gathered under his oversight, giving us hope that he will fully unite them with this his House and Body. And his incommodity not having hitherto permitted him to do it, so he did it the 15. of

of the same month. And because the affections which he uttereth therein and the exhortations which he maketh, are very pure and edifying, it hath there fore seemed good to me here to relate them, as they are expressed in the letter following.

„My beloved brethren and sisters, I have oftentimes had a mind to write unto you, to give you some speciall witness of that holy love which God hath laid in our hearts for your souls, but the Lord having hindered it sometimes by the disease wherewith he hath been pleased to visit me, I therefore have thought that his Spirit provideth in all things through himself in those who have received him, and that he also hath granted you abundantly to be led and helped in the way of the Lord which he hath made to you, by my worthy Brother your faithfull pastor. So I have thus farr contented my self as to let you know with how much tenderness I am mindfull of you,

„and to pray the Lord that it may
„please him to continue his mercy
„to you, and to multiply that precious
„grace which he sheweth to you
„together with us, that is in truth
„and only to seek his divine Face.
„And I hope that he hath not rejected
„that prayer which in my weakness
„I was inclined to make for your
„souls. He is good, and taketh
„pleasure in the least groan which his
„Spirit formeth in us to his glory. I
„likewise have desired to admonish
„you in his love that you should
„wholly and for all things trust on
„him, we are but to pray for his grace
„that the spirit of his glory may inhabit
„us and lead us in all things.
„And should he deny us that which
„his Spirit and love maketh us to desire
„for his own sake? That can not
„be: for he is unchangeably faithful
„full to the Love which he hath for
„himself, and for all that which
„thereof he powreth out into our
„hearts, to make us to draw near
„to him. Make account above all
„things of that good to know him for

as he causeth himself to be known to you. For there is great darkness upon the earth, and perhaps the same will grow yet more heavy; God in his just judgement finding it good that his truth should still keep it self much hidden, whether it be by reason of mens hardness or by reason of error. My beloved it is very seldom that one shall hear a word of pure truth, and if one cometh to heare any it is commonly weakly and little in the spirit. Let this go lively into your hearts, even as it ought to touch us all holily and to make us fear. Truly the Lord is good to our souls, and we have great matter to humble our selves before him, and to be ashamed he vouchsafing to give us to partake of the pure grace of his beloved Son, and to place us in the holy ways of his pure and true service. Let the greatness and purity of the calling whereof you are made partakers, pull you yet more out of your selves, and exalt you above all things, It is from God, and it

„ must joyne us with him. It is a
 „ bove nature, and it must put us a
 „ bove nature, whether it be within
 „ us, or without us. It is spirit
 „ all, and consequently it must
 „ make us to live after the spirit
 „ and make us to deny all what is
 „ flesh. We ought to lay this more
 „ to heart, that it renewing us in that
 „ purity whereof it maketh an im
 „ pression, it may more draw all
 „ our hearts and minds out of them
 „ selves, and may make them more
 „ to live of him who is the Author
 „ thereof. Be not weary to walk in
 „ those ways which the Lord Jesus
 „ Christ hath troden out and conse
 „ crated to you by his blood. They
 „ lead you to the eternall commu
 „ nion with God: and instead of
 „ being afrighted from them, renew
 „ yourselves rather oftentimes in
 „ that Spirit which causeth us to walk
 „ therein. We have many times
 „ more cause to be ashamed because
 „ we have almost done nothing as it
 „ fit, then to think that we have
 „ walked & runned well. The Lord

Jesus

Jesus went with great steps to the cross to die for us, and how slowly do we go to the place where we shall find life! Let us blush & be ashamed for it, even as it is fit, & renewing our strength in him, in whom we can do all things, let us goe anew and walk in the presence of God, of Jesus Christ, and of his Spirit, in the ways of his love and his service. Allthough now for some time I have not had the comfort of seeing your faces, yet however, I have some times felt, beholding you in the Spirit, that the Lord hath been well pleased with you, and that he would multiply his grace and mercy to you from day to day. But beloved brethren and sisters, must not we seek the same in a spirit wholly new? And will we be wearied to love the same, and to walk there by? The Spirit which maketh them to be found every day so lovely is a new Spirit given to that end, and he likewise worketh new things in those that have received him. I pray you

„beloved be not cast down about any
„thing, that you may not grow
„faint in the way which the Lord
„hath made to us: for he will streng-
„then us unto all things through
„the holy Spirit of his strength: and
„if through his love for him, we are
„indeed willing to be strong, the
„weakest shall have so much given
„to him that neither the flesh, nor
„the world, nor the hell shall be able
„to overcome him. Be faithfull to
„suffer your selves to be humbled
„and broken, through the Spirit of
„truth and purity which the Lord
„causeth you to feel, and through
„which he speaketh unto you,
„and presseth you with love. There
„is no life of Christ in us but so
„far as we are dead to our sel-
„ves; and his Spirit doth not
„purely enlarge it self but after that
„our own Spirit is denied and bro-
„ken. The more we resist God,
„so much the more labour we shall
„have: for who hath resisted him
„and had peace; We therefore ex-
„hort you Brethren and Sisters, and

we beseech you, yea urge you in that lovely name of the Lord Jesus, before whom every knee in heaven and in earth must bow it self, that you suffer his Spirit to destroy in you all whatsoever is against him, that so he may have full power in you and over you, and may possess and lead you as his beloved Children. Have not you already felt many times that his Kingdom is infinitely soft and sweet, and is not exalted, but upon the overthrow of the kingdom of sin, of pride, and of self-love? Let this spirituall experience & foretast of the Kingdom of God (which is neither meat nor drink, and doth not consist in words, nor in thoughts nor feelings, but in spirit; being nothing but truth, righteousness, & peace and joy in the Holy Ghost) exalt you as yet more above your selves, and all what you have known according to men, according to the flesh, and according to your former conversation; and let it make you to approach unto, yea

„ inwardly to be united for ever with
„ the Father and his children through
„ Jesus Christ, who is the way to
„ this Kingdom, and the King there
„ of. God hath shewen that he hath
„ loved us, and this love hath ap-
„ peared in many things which he
„ hath done about his Work amongst
„ us in generall, and about every
„ soul in particular who hath been
„ faithfull to him. Let not there-
„ fore any one distrust of him need
„ of his love, and suffer himself to
„ be surprised either by his own spi-
„ rit, or by the spirit of the world,
„ or of the tempter, having known
„ Him that is true, and likewise re-
„ ceived much assurance of that faith-
„ full witness, whose witness alone
„ must be a thousand times more to
„ us, then all whatsoever the world
„ or the spirit of temptation may be
„ able to say. If we did think less
„ on our selves and more on God
„ giving our selves fully over to him
„ & to his Spirit, to work his pure
„ work, we should not have so
„ many troubles. It is true we must

endure some to be purged out & to
 be strengthened, but they would
 be much less, especially for some,
 who to often & to much are tur-
 ned again to themselves. But this
 bad returning to ones self must
 have an end, together with the
 life of the old man; and indeed it
 is fit yea and time, that we should
 deny all what is of our own, and
 go out of our selves, and to go
 into Christ, and suffer him to
 possess, and to lead us. I pray
 in the tender love of the Lord,
 those whom his Spirit doth upbraid
 particularly of this sinfull retur-
 ning to themselves, that they may
 in truth humble themselves before
 him; and without being cast down
 after an humane manner, or to keep
 themselves up with their own
 thoughts, imaginations, tempta-
 tions or also with their own cor-
 ruptions otherwise as is conveni-
 ent, that they suffer them selves to
 be purged out in good earnest, and
 denying themselves to go anew to
 him again, who allone must possess

„them. The truth doth not wea-
„ken those who with all their hearts
„will live to God. Contrarily it
„doth strengthen them, and it is to
„them a Spirit of life and holy
„strength. Love the same all of
„you, I beseech you, for the truth is
„wholly lovely, when one hath the
„right heart to love it. I greet you
„all beloved in the Lord, and by
„name. Although here I do not
„put down the names, yet however
„I name you in my spirit, and I
„pray to God affectionately, that
„he may be pleased to multiply his
„true love to you, and renew to you
„the inclination to his holy service,
„and to make you faithfull & fit for
„to glorify him in Spirit and in
„Truth. Be you of his true wor-
„shippers, and let him be your God
„& Saviour, both now & for ever-
„more. His blessing be upon you,
„and the Spirit of peace, of purity,
„and grace, which is given to all
„those that love him, rest in your
„hearts, and possess the same in all
„things. This I wish to you my

„well-beloved, in love & feeling.
 „I think with tenderness on the chil-
 „dren, and I exhort them earnest-
 „ly to walk in the fear of the Lord,
 „and according to his divine will,
 „as being separated from the world
 „by a speciall Providence, and cal-
 „led for to obey & serve him, by
 „such a goodness of God which in
 „these dayes is very rare.

About the same time he had like-
 wise written a letter to one of our
 sisters which found her self inclined
 to write to him what she felt con-
 cerning his suffering, and what part
 that all his sheep had always taken
 there in. And because that which
 there upon he expresseth is very
 much tending to edification, I will
 therefore joine it to that which we
 have already seen and related of
 him. He then did write to her in these
 words: „The bands of God and of
 „his Spirit are glorious bands, and
 „even as they doe unite us in
 „him, who can never be enough
 „known nor loved, so likewise they
 „have something which can not well

„ be expressed nor comprehended, let
 „ them ty us yet more straight toge-
 „ ther, in binding us fast unto him
 „ the Author and the End thereof
 „ Our communion with him, and
 „ with those that are his, in him, is
 „ the work of his almighty and e-
 „ ternall love. Let us then look upon
 „ the same as that which is more than
 „ common, and so farr as it is given
 „ to us to enjoy that great good, let
 „ us with all our hearts blesse and
 „ love him who giveth it to us. We
 „ have great cause to thank him for
 „ his goodness and patience towards
 „ me, and I have no less cause to
 „ humble my self under his divine
 „ hand, and to learn to be more obe-
 „ dient unto him, and to be more
 „ compliable with all whatsoever his
 „ will shall be concerning me. His
 „ ways about those that are his, (as
 „ being dispensed through an infinite
 „ love) are instructing, and I feel
 „ sometimes that I must come more in-
 „ structed and more humble out of
 „ that way wherein he hath been
 „ pleased to hold me sometime; and

„I trust to him, that as he doth no
 „thing in vain about those to whom
 „he hath given a heart which seeketh
 „in truth to please him, that he will
 „not deny me that grace, to be able in
 „some measure to answer the sense
 „which I have thereof. My former
 „disease hath been accompanied with
 „much sweetness, and I can hardly
 „see any other thing therein. You
 „likewise, and others with me have
 „found how good it is to be and to re-
 „main under his hand, when it plea-
 „seth him to keep us under it; let our
 „little experience teach us more that
 „obedience which we owe him, & let
 „it make us to draw nearer to him,
 „seeing he vouchsafeth to come to
 „us in so much love, then even when
 „he cometh to us to make us to suffer
 „any thing. If that which seemeth to
 „be a severity is such a great good,
 „what is not his goodness and friend-
 „ship it self, when he is pleased in
 „some measure to shew the same ac-
 „cording to what they are? Though
 „you, as likewise our worthy sisters
 „have not written to me but by my

„worthy Brother, I have not there-
„fore any thing less felt the tender-
„ness of your hearts, and the portion
„which you take in my state. And
„although there had been nothing
„written at all to me of that
„which the Lord hath caused his
„Children to feel about me, I would
„have comforted my self with the
„sense of their love. Those good
„hearts and that good Spirit, which
„the Lord giveth to those that are his,
„are to much inclined to feel all
„what is of the communion of those
„who are united in God and in
„Christ, then that they should fail
„in the dutys of love which do ob-
„lige them. And I am likewise sen-
„sible, that even as they with ten-
„derness of heart have taken part in
„that which hath been allotted un-
„to me, so likewise that I have had
„part, and still have in all what ever
„the Lord hath done about them, and
„doth continue to do in his goodness
„and presence; now he seemeth to
„cause my return unto you to ap-
„proach, so I do very well find the

„sensible attraction of that holy fellowship which he hath made between our hearts in him.

The Lord at that time having restored my very Worthy Brother, gave him opportunity to go to Rotterdam, and to the Hague, and to Utrecht to satisfy the desire of divers; after which in his faithful Providence, he brought him again to us, to our mutuall and speciall comfort. Even as he did very tenderly love his sheep, so likewise was he tenderly beloved by them, and he feeling a speciall love towards me, so I felt likewise such a great full and inward agreement of heart with him, that I can not express the same, even as this is known to God, and hath appeared before his Children amongst us. So that we thanked the Lord together for that mutuall consolation which he gave to us, and which did very sensibly elevate us to him. His zeal for Gods glory and the salvation of souls was greater and more lively then ever, and he applyed himself with much

feeling of heart to the making of our great *Catechism* or *Christian instruction*, which came out in print a few days before the Lord took him out of this world into his eternall glory. He applied him wholly anew to the cure of his worthy flock, edifying them by word, example and guidance, and together with me providing for them all necessary help, which his working love did incline him without ceasing to afford them. But before the sommer was wholly past, we saw his evill to grow again, by the falling down of the same humors, and it did encrease even so much, that it was judged to be absolutely necessary to come to a totall extirpation. We endeavoured to have an experienced Chirurgient to come from the Hague, which had shewed love to us, but the providence of God not permitting him to come, so it was the desire of my Worthy Brother, after he had taken counsell about it with our Doctor (who hath shewed to him even to his end a very tender and unusuall affection) that one of our

of Mr. Dulignon.

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brethren who for some time before
exercised himself in Chyrurgery,
and whose hand the Lord hath blessed
on divers occasions, should do the
operation. The pains which my
very worthy Brother did suffer in
his cutting of his evill were not com-
mon, for the evill having spread it
self very farr, and more then out-
wardly did appear, so they were con-
strained to take away a great part of
his chin, yea even to come more
then once to it, which, seeing it was
done in the quick flesh, did cause ex-
tream pains. But surely the grace of
the Lord, and the strength of his
spirit did in that occasion appear so
powerfully in him, that even those
very hearts that are least sensible ei-
ther of love or pain, might have
been moved thereby. He suffered
all without moving of himself, with
patience which could not proceed
but from the extraordinary assistance
of Jesus Christ our Lord. We saw
then in him a lively image of his
holly suffering, and of that heart
with which he hath suffered before

134 *Dispositions and last words*
the eyes of God his Father.

My worthy Brother had an inclination, before he was cut, to speak with divers of us: which he did with so much light and presence of Spirit, with so much purity of heart, that every one did even melt into tears, and in a speciall manner was drawn up to the Lord Christ who was pleased to shew himself to us as suffering in his faithfull Servant. He gave a glorious testimony of the good ways of the Lord, of whose infinite goodness he could not sufficiently boast, even in this his way with him. Afterwards he sat down in the chaire, whereon he was to suffer, with as much quietness of mind, as if he went to sit at the table to meat, and with such valour, which apparently could not proceed but from God and the power of his love. The Doctor which was present when the work was in doing, was moved therewith and especially edified even as we likewise who had very great cause to thank the Lord for the faithfull assistance of his grace to

wards him, as likewise for the assistance which he gave to our brother who wrought in the cure, and who therein behaved himself to the great satisfaction of the Doctor.

After that the evill was cut out, my Worthy Brother not being in state for to speake, would yet in the midst even of his greatest and most lively pain utter out some words to tell us, *That the Lord was good and very good: that we should thank him, and more then be himself; and that we should pray to the Lord, if he did put it into our hearts, that in his mercy he would take him to himself.*

A few days after we found the wound to be yet in a very slight state, and that much of the evill was yet remaining. For even as it was not closed up in its skin so it had spread it self much abroad, and was gone a great deale further as one could well beleeve, or judge from without. Yet the wound which was made was very deep; the pains which our worthy Brother must therefore suffer have been very sensible & of long

continuance ; his weaknes was great, and the hope of taking the evill quite away by cutting or otherwise was but little. All this made us to conclude, that we were to cure no more, the Patient being in no condition to suffer it ; although on the other side we likewise saw that unless the Lord should extend his helping hand in an extraordinary manner, we should in a short time be deprived of our worthy Brother, after he should have endured yet much pain. The Doctor was sensibly grieved for it & was wounded in his heart : but the Lord, who gave us more then ever to take our refuge unto him, did support our hearts by Faith, and by the hope which he gave to us upon his almighty hand. When I said unto my very worthy Brother what we judged of his state, he said, *Every will of God is good* ; and not being able to speake more by reason of his wound, so he caused them to give him a writing table, on which he did write these words :
„ By the Grace of God, I wish not to

live here below, but I am very willing to go to him, and give myself over to his mercy from whom I expect all. But now I should be able to say nothing else, but that the power of God is able to restore all things, and I feel some joy in my mind that I do as more fall into his divine hands. A little after he added these words, „I should not be willing to neglect any thing which the providence of God doth offer to me, for it is the token of his will and of his work; but God doing all things as he doth, that is as I think, to make me to loose and find myself more in him. Perhaps he will likewise have me more to see the end of humane power, to shew us what he is to us in his love when it pleaseth him.

Our Sister Huyghens speaking to him of his apparent death, so he said, *We will follow the Lamb whethersoever it shall lead us. Believe you that he will take me to himself, ô bless him, bless him for it.* He said to some other body, with feeling of heart, and in a spirit

of humility whereof he was commonly very full, *I am weak, and strong; weak in myself, and strong in God; and more then I can say.* The two next ensuing days the wounds did grow worse and worse, so that all appearance of healing did by degrees more and more vanish away. But the Lord did put into the heart of our brother that had him in cure, to apply to him a certain oile, which might do no hurt to the wound but much good, if it should please God to give his blessing to it. This remedy did in few days so much consume the evill, and almost without pain, or it did rather so vanish away, by the powerfull and efficacious will of the Lord, that there was nothing more seen of it, and the wound was put into so good a state, as one might wish. The Lord would thus shew us what he is able to do when it pleaseth him; and that when he doth not the things, it is not because they are to hard or not to be done, but because it is not his time or well pleasing to him.

When my worthy Brother did run the greatest danger, then one of our brethren had expressed in a song the state and dispositions of our heart in relation to him, and likewise those of the heart of our beloved patient, even as that may be seen in our spirituall songs in french, in page 178. And for as much as divers of us went to visit him in the evening, talking one with an other before his bed of the ways of the Lord towards his Children, and particularly towards us, so I caused to be read that song, which was very much stirring up, and fit to make us to lift up our hearts to the Lord. Whereby our worthy Brother took occasion to utter to us divers of his feelings, which were so tender, pure, and full of humility, love, and thankfullness towards God, for the love towards him which he had given to his Children, that we can not think on it, without having our hearts to be lively moved therewith. I telling him among others, that the Lord.

caused us to feel and to expresse that which his Spirit had wrought in truth, and that he would give us an example of suffering, so he said with a tender and deep sense of his heart, which did wring tears out of ours as well as out of his eyes : „ The „ love of God and of his Children „ make me ashamed. The good „ which hath been is from the Lord. „ He hath supported me, and dealt „ with me according to his mercy; „ but there hath been also much defect and mixture of my own with- „ it. God hath thought on a poor „ earth-worm. He hath heard the „ groanings of his Children. All, „ must be much ascribed to that Spirit which the Lord hath given to „ his Church. Telling him yet that the Lord had done good to us all, in that way which he had held about him, that he had taught us much, and that there is no more but an appearance of evill in all whatsoever he doth about those that are his, all that which is essentiall therein being nothing else but good, so

he answered us with a heart which was wholly taken up with the love of the Lord. „That he did wish with all his heart that God would continue to him all the days of his life the lively impressiion of that which he had done to him, although he should live yet two or three times longer then he had. The Lord (said he) hath done me much good. I would not for all what is in the world, but I had received, the good which the Lord in that way hath done to me.

The wound by Gods blessing visibly running together, was at the last closed up by the last hand which he himself did put to it, so that my worthy Brother was thereby not so much as hindred in his speech, and had again the means to be able by his words to edify the House of the Lord, even as he had done so much by his manifold sufferings, and by the heart which therein he shewed, to the glory of his Grace who gave it him. If I should tell you all whatsoever about this great matter the

Lord hath made us to feel, those which have not seen that which we have seen, would think that I do make it greater: but I can tell in truth, that the remembrance thereof doth never come to our minds, but we feel our hearts to be enflamed with love to God & to the cross of his Son, which a fresh he was pleased to make so loving & precious, by the experience thereof which he hath given to us in his faithfull Servant.

I have found among his papers a writing, which I do believe he made a little after that the Lord had perfectly healed him. And for as much as it is very fit to make us to see, what were his feelings at that time, as likewise the grace wherewith the Lord had filled his heart, I therefore found good to joine it to this, for the edification of all those that shall read it, and who must be very unsensible of that which the Lord worketh in those that are his, if their hearts are not touched therewith. He then therein doth utter himself.

„Great God, whose goodness is a

bottomless depth, which one can
neither fathom out, nor sufficient-
ly praise, open my heart in
songs of praise, and grant me that
there may flow out of it even
streams of blessing and thanksgi-
ving, for the good which accor-
ding to thy pleasure thou doest to
me.

„I was come even to the grave,
the bonds of death had compassed
me. An old & deadly evill, a
gnawing venom did eat away my
flesh. I might have been numbred
up among the dead, and nothing
was able to deliver me from it.
Divers means, yea even the art of
men did seem to be unprofitable.
All was come as to the last end &
extremity without appearance of
restauration, when it pleased thee
Lord almighty, to come to my
help, and through thy self to do
that which none but thou couldest
do.

„Thou wast indeed willing to use
thy creatures, and to employ their
hands, which thy grace sanctifi-

„eth; but thou hast done this only
 „for to cover thine there by a little
 „In this thy help which thou hast
 „done, thou wast willing to shew
 „thy self and to hide thy self. To
 „shew thy self in doing that which
 „none but thou couldest do. And
 „to hide thy self, by covering the
 „presence of thy wholsom hand,
 „with that of thy Children as with an
 „acceptable cloud,

„Thou hast given them light and
 „knowledge, thou hast strengthened
 „them, thou hast led them, and
 „put them to this work, thou hast
 „taken them as instruments between
 „thy divine fingers, and hast done
 „what in thy goodness thou wouldest
 „do.

„Thou hast also caused the love
 „and the trust which thy Children
 „have to come as to the end, that
 „their love towards thee and even
 „their love towards me, all-
 „though wholly unworthy, might
 „burst out more in its holy flame.
 „It pleased thee to give them love,
 „and to kindle their hearts with a
 divine

divine zeal to pray to thee, and to
entreat thee for me for that which
thy compassion would grant to
them. They did call, and were
heard, they did pray, and thou didst
grant their desires. Thy name be
blessed therefore for evermore. O
how beautifull are thy works ô my
God! how pure is thy gouern-
ment, and how easy are thy ways,
how lovely and worthy of thee,
my God! I find it in some mea-
sure, and my soul is full of the sense
thereof to declare it, and to give
thee glory for it.

But it is not only in this thing
that thy goodness doth give me this
lesson. it is already a long while
ago that thou hast been pleased,
my God, to teach me this by ex-
perience, and I ought now to be a
master therein, whereat I am yet a
child and an ignorant schollar, af-
ter all that which thou hast done to
form me, and to make me wise and
knowing in the wonderfull know-
ledge of thy ways.

The works of thy mercy, thy

„deliverance according to soul and
 „body, thy help, thy support, thy
 „assistance & the glorious works of
 „thy divine power towards me, o
 „Lord, they are even as without
 „number. I do not find any day or
 „hour in my life, in which I may
 „not see some proof of thy goodness,
 „yea many proofs together.

„Thou, my God, hast kept me
 „from my birth. Thine eyes did
 „look upon me when I was yet in
 „my mothers womb. Thy fingers
 „have formed me there. Thou hast
 „wrought me together, composed
 „me, animated & kept me. That
 „imperfect thing hath from that
 „time been under thy care. This un-
 „shapen lump of flesh & blood, this
 „vessell of earth & mudde although
 „it be compacted together in a hea-
 „of sinn, hath been an object of thy
 „wonderfull care.

„How oftentimes hast thou not
 „kept me from death even from my
 „childhood? I have been compassed
 „about therewith for divers years
 „and it wanted little but I had been

a prey to it, by reason of the continuall pinings and sickliness, in which I have spent my childhood, but thou wast willing to spare me, because thou haddest laid up for me that costly good to know thee, and Jesus thy Son, my Saviour & King. I should then have perished, both in soul & body; but thou hast preserved this temporall life to me, to give me part of that eternall life. Thou hast sustained this body and my weak nature, to make me to arise in spirit & to live again in Grace.

„Out of how many dangers hath not thy hand ridd' me in success of times, O my God! what long-suffering hast thou not shewed me, in bearing with me that am so sinful & so guilty! What mercy, that I have not been a thousand times consumed! But thou hast done this, O Lord, because thou wouldest make thy grace & long-suffering to abound, where guilt and sin did abound. My sins have been very great, and thy

„mercys have been infinite.

„O noble love, O glorious goodness and wonderfull longsuffering, how shall I praise thee! How shall I utter any thing of that which I feel, although my feeling is as nothing to the thing it self, which is infinite, as thou thy self, ô God, art infinite.

„Furthermore, Lord, thou hast done good to me, and an infinite good, for the evils which I have done against thee without number. Thou hast pursued me with loving-kindness, when I did most of all flee from thee in my wickedness. Thou hast necessitated me to accept of thy Grace, thou hast forced me to go into thy royal house, and to take part of the weddingfeast of thy welbeloved, thou hast pulled off from me my old garments of sin & filthiness, and thou hast clothed me with a costly garment, for to eat with them that are the guests of thy good pleasure.

„The number of these benefits & the greatness of Grace maketh me

to stand astonished, and if thou
by thy efficacious working didst
not assure me of the truth thereof,
their excellency would have caused
me to bring them into question.

„What goodness and kindness hast
not thou caused me to feel, how
unfaithfull and imperfect soever I
did yet remain! What help and as-
sistance, ô my God, have not I
found in all my need and agonys!
All things have risen up against my
soul to destroy it, but thou hast pre-
served & ridd' it.

„O God of my salvation, how
oftentimes hath thy hand suppor-
ted me, when I was come to the
uttermost extremity! The bot-
tomless pit hath even opened some-
times it self to devoure me, the
most dreadfull terrors have fallen
upon me. The violence of hell is
come to run against my poor soul,
their crafts have been employed in
many and divers manners for to
ensnare it. And who hath ridd'
them away, but thou, ô my God,
through thy faithfull and untired
love!

„If thou haddest not been who
 „thou art, ô my God, infinitely
 „doing good, I had been destroyed
 „without remedy.

„O how great are thy mercys, ô
 „my God, which thou shewest to-
 „wards those whom thou lovest! O
 „how great & noble is thy love! it
 „is not limited but by it self, even
 „as it doth not end but in it self.

„If that which is good was to have
 „come from me, I had never done
 „it, nor desired it. If so be that
 „perseverance was to have come
 „from my faithfullness I had peri-
 „shed a thousand times, and if my
 „preservation had not been but of
 „my self, I should not have been
 „any thing else but an object of thy
 „wrath, and a subject of destructi-
 „on.

„But ô my God, glory, honour,
 „and love be given unto thee for
 „evermore, because thou doest make
 „that thy Elect are not what they
 „are, either in Grace or in Glory,
 „but by thy grace and gift, and
 „because that thou in thy free

„but allmighty love doest fullfill
„in them, that which thou wilt
„have them to be before thy pre-
„sence.

„O high mercy, ô wonderfull
„love who can comprehend thee!
„Thy thoughts towards us are won-
„derfull. Thy mercys are invalua-
„ble. The works of thy Spirit
„are incomprehensible: and what
„thou doest lay up for those that are
„thine & doest faithfully fullfill in
„them, is to be praised for ever.
„Let me therefore praise thee for it,
„ô my God, the days of my life.
„Let me without ceasing declare
„what thou art and what thou
„doest for and in them that are
„thine.

„I am ô my God, as in a speciall
„manner thy miserable one, and
„that patient for whose healing
„thou doest take care through thine
„infinite forbearance.

„I commit many faults and thou
„doest pardon them. I am in a cer-
„tain sense as a riddle to my self,
„seeing how oftentimes I do sin, &

„ yet how much there is pardoned to
 „ me, and how much I am loved.
 „ O my God, let thy great love here
 „ after shew it self more, in making
 „ me such as I ought to be. If I have
 „ been a servant of whom much is
 „ endured, make me to be an obe-
 „ dient & faithfull Child.

„ Lord thou givest me plentifull
 „ matter to praise thee, let me then
 „ praise thee without ceasing. My
 „ God my desire is that even when
 „ I am a sleep, my bones, my flesh,
 „ and soul may praise thee &
 „ be only employed about thee:
 „ thou doest compass her about
 „ with so much goodness, thou
 „ doest protect her from so much
 „ evill, thou workest in her so much
 „ good, that I have need, ô my
 „ God an eternity, to praise thee for
 „ it.

„ I hope I shall fullfill my great
 „ defects, when the eternity of thy
 „ Grace shall have enriched my po-
 „ verty, and shall have placed me
 „ above all my miserys. Then thy
 „ goodness shall fill up, not only

my vessell; but even also the empti-
ness of this life. I shall then say
to all Angels & Archangels what
thou hast done to my soul. I will
tell it to thy whole numberless fa-
mily. I will shew them thy grace,
and declare thy benefits to them,
shewing them the wounds of which
thou hast cured my soul. But a-
bove all I will go to thee, my God
and to thee ô Jesus my Preserver,
according to the impetuous drift
which the eternall and perfect grace
of thy love will give to me, and I
shall lay down before thy feet,
not only the crown of thy pure
bounty, but even my whole being.
I will adore thee, and annihilate
my self, I shall flow away & sink
in thy love, and in the Spirit of
thy praise.

This doth at present this faithfull
soul, with all her desire and love,
and according to the tender & affecti-
onate promises which she hath done
to her God thereof, even as we see
in this writing which is much edifi-
ing, and very fit to make known the

inward part of this most humble soul
 and faithfull Servant of Jesus Christ.
 Furthermore these following words
 have been found among his papers,
 which shew what then did particular-
 ly touch his heart : „ I do lively feel
 „ in my heart that the expression
 „ of the humility, meekness, po-
 „ verty, and the suffering of our
 „ Lord Jesus Christ, must be as the
 „ way in which I must walk, and
 „ the path in which I must runn the
 „ remainder of my life. The Lord
 „ who giveth to me this feeling,
 „ which I love and will close up in
 „ my heart, will by his divine fin-
 „ ger engrave it therein, not only to
 „ continue to me the remembrance
 „ thereof, but by his Grace to be
 „ faithfull to it, if he will keep me
 „ yet sometime in this life.

After that the all-powerfull and all-
 good hand of our heavenly Father had
 thus even as miraculously restored
 him, so he spoke to all his sheep in
 such a pure and heartstirring manner
 in the Assembly, that it did suffici-
 ently appear that there was come even

as a new life in his soul, and that the love of God and of his glory, of Christ and of his Kingdom, of the Church and all his Elect did more then ever burn in his heart, and caused there more lively and more heavenly flames to arise. He likewise did by letters to many shew the sense of thankfulness, wherewith he did a new bind himself to God and to his service, at the same time when he by an inward and upright humility did count himself unworthy to be again employed thereto by Gods Spirit and his holy Providence. Of all those letters which he did write about this, and whereof we could find coppers I shall relate but two, which shew the spirit wherewith he was wholly possessed. The one was to Mr. Bardewisch and his wife who, according to the tender love which they had for him, did greatly partake with him in his state, and in the danger wherein he had been: And the other to my mother in which he uttereth divers moving and pure feelings, which without doubt will be desired.

to be seen. The first was of the 23. of February of the year 1680 last past in these words.

„My worthy Brother and my worthy Sister, you have been sad and comforted for me, God having been pleased to make you partakers with me in all whatsoever it hath pleased him to send to me, and it is fit that I should shew you how that I have not been unsensible of your love, and that whilst I thank you in his love, I doe likewise invite you to praise him with me. It would be little if we should but partake of that which mutually doth concern us, if we did not yet more narrowly partake in giving thanks for the same to him, who sending to those that are his all things for good, will also be praised and thanked for the same by them all. I am too small and too weak, to be able to acknowledge as is fit the least of his benefits, which he hath shewed to me in this his last visitation; but however I will praise him for it by his grace all the days of my life. And join your

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selves to me, if you please, to pay to him with me this holy duty. It is indeed best for those to whom God hath manifested himself in his grace, to depart out of this life as a changing house, for to be with Christ, who is given to them for a Saviour and Head; but in the order of those benefits, which he bestoweth upon those that are his in this warfare, he is willing that we should thankfully acknowledge all the help which he giveth in those divers states wherein it pleaseth him to place us: especially when they are accompanied with the demonstrations of his love, to make himself sensible to our souls, and to cause even all what he hath sent to us, to turn to such a great good as is that of our greater sanctification and communion with Christ. I hope of his mercy that he will cause me to draw some such fruit out of all that which is past. I doe expect all from that love which I have ofrentimes found and felt to be infinite; and likewise I am very wil-

„ling to witness it, that giving our
 „selves over to this divine love, more
 „then at any time, which in all things
 „without exception of any watchmen
 „over us, we likewise all may experi-
 „mentally know that it is high, deep,
 „and truly infinite. He by his
 „Grace hath granted me to be prepa-
 „red to go to him for ever, to long
 „for him as for my God to whom I
 „have consecrated my self; but he
 „hath yet been pleased to deferr the
 „accomplishment of his mercy to my
 „soul, and yet would make me to
 „find that the same was very great in
 „all what he hath done for me. But
 „what shall I say? In all what he
 „doth, whether he doth it or doth it
 „not, he is always good, and
 „knoweth how to make himself to be
 „felt and found that he is infinitely
 „lovely. Praise him with me for
 „this my worthy brother and sister,
 „and for as much as you likewise in
 „your own persons have tried his
 „faithfull care for you, let us all say
 „one with an other in a lively sense
 „of what he is, that his loving-kind-

ness is great, and continueth for ever. His holy Name be blessed for all things. Let Jesus be very much beloved, and praised by the souls of us all; and that good Spirit of God, which hath vouchsafed to take us under his conduct, and who doth strengthen us, comfort us, and raiseth us up again, and causeth us to rejoyce in that steadfast hope that once we shall see him, he also be blessed and adored for evermore. It hath pleased the Lord wholly to close up that which was remaining of my wound, so that nothing else is remaining, but that I faithfully thank him for all what he hath done, and that I keep my self busy in his love, to make that holy use which I ought to make of that life which he hath as newly given to me again. But he will also grant me this grace, besides all those others that I have need of, that I may fulfill the offering of my self which I have made to him for ever. It is good to live for him, and yet bet-

„ter to die in him, to enjoy with
 „him his eternall life. Our worthy
 „Sister Huyghens hath made us
 „clearly to see, that which his Spirit
 „giveth us to beleieve. We doe like
 „wise taste it, and have triall of it,
 „so much as the Lord pleaseth to
 „give us; but she hath caused us at
 „leisure to see that grace which
 „God bestoweth upon those that are
 „his, and to heare, taste, and feel
 „it. And he doth undoubtedly give
 „us such appearances of his faithfull
 „and mighty love, that our hearts
 „may enlarge themselves in him,
 „and that by a more full yeelding of
 „our selves over into his hands, he
 „may more possess us. Worthy
 „Brother and Sister, let him there-
 „fore more then before at any time
 „be our King and only Possessor.
 „Let us live to him, and not live
 „but for him, through Jesus Christ
 „our Lord.

The letter which he did write to
 France to my mother is nothing less
 edifying: and for as much as the
 Lord for divers years in his love hath

exercised her with great pains of the
gout, which causeth to her much suf-
fering, and keepeth her for the most
part as bound to her chair or bedd,
so he gives her witness of the good-
ness of the way of suffering and of
the cross which God layeth upon his
Children: and uttering to her what
he hath found thereof in those that
are his, he encourageth her to conti-
nue to suffer before God in the Spi-
rit & love of Christ, which doth de-
light himself in his suffering mem-
bers on earth. These are the words
of his letter. „God at present gi-
ves me an opportunity which obli-
geth me, Mistris and much ho-
noured Sister, to give you thanks
for the remembrance which you
have had of me, and the share
which you have taken in that state
in which it hath pleased him to
place me, and now by his good
hand to help me again out of it.
He was willing to cause me to feel
his Divine goodness, in that way
in which he hath kept about me: and
what have I to say, when he is wil-

„ling to cause a sinner to taste the
 „sweetness of his love who is as little
 „worthy of the chastisement of his
 „love, as the consolation thereof.
 „His hand hath for a little while cast
 „me down, and it doth likewise
 „raise me up again, and in such a
 „manner as that his almighty love
 „can be discerned therein. He
 „him self hath so softly and lovely
 „supported me, that I must praise
 „him for it for evermore, and never
 „think on it without powring forth
 „tears of love and thankfulness. He
 „likewise was pleased to streng
 „then me through his great love
 „which he hath powred forth into
 „the hearts of his Children in this his
 „Church, and into those of divers o
 „thers, who not being there accor
 „ding to the body, yet have their
 „hearts much there, amongst which
 „I see you to be one, my much be
 „loved Sister, and I thank you that
 „you was pleased to be mindfull o
 „me. The Lord hath made use o
 „your Son, my worthy & faithful
 „Brother, to give you knowledge

of my state, but I receive the testimony of your love as descending yet from a higher originall, then from that sensible mean which hath given occasion thereunto. I look upon it as coming from him who is Love it self, and he who whilst he maketh himself to be loved for himself sake, doth also incline the hearts of those whom he possesseth to all those that are in his love. Now he hath loved us in his infinite mercy, and he maketh me to love him through his love, and to desire to love him more, yea with all that wherewith I shall at any time be able to love him. This then is enough for to kindle in our hearts an holy fire which never shall be quenched. In this sense I consider your love, and thank you for the same in him who gives to the feelings of affections & thankfulness which come from his Spirit all their praise and worth. I have long kept as hidden in my heart, divers feelings of love and holy esteem of that grace which God hath besto-

„wed upon you. But he makes me
„to publish or at the least to disco-
„ver, that which in some measure
„hath been as covered: for which
„I thank him, being heartily glad
„with a holy gladness that I have
„occasion to tell you before your
„death or before mine, that I am
„sensible of the work of his Grace
„in you with much tenderness,
„and that it is so dear and acceptable
„to me as if it was of mine own mo-
„ther: I would hereof give you up-
„right tokens, if the Lord would be
„pleased to give me there unto op-
„portunity. He hath made you to
„be one of his beloved Children,
„and besides, mother of a sonn whom
„in his grace he hath given to me to
„be my elder Brother, although ac-
„cording to nature I am older than
„he. And the benefit which therein
„the Lord hath done to me is so pre-
„cious, that I put it amongst the
„most speciall ones, wherewith his
„mercy hath favoured me. Like-
„wise I can tell you that he is more
„worthy to me then I can express

and his love is to me more then the love of all others. The Lord did cause that as soon as we saw and knew one the other, that we did love one the other so, as that we have left all former friendship. But the grace of God, and his calling towards us, his counsell and holy service, hath since united our hearts in such a manner, that neither death nor any other thing shall ever be able to violate this union: contrarily it shall encrease, so much as we shall make progress towards him, wo is the great and eternall foundation of the love of his Saints. As to what remaineth Mrs. I can not forbear to tell you that I am sensible of that state wherein the Lord hath been pleased to put you, he hath taught me by some experience to be sensible of the trials of those whom he doth somewhat particularly visit; and I pray to him in the same sense of my heart, which I have had sometimes upon my sickbed that he will give you ease & strength. He will

„ undoubtedly do it, and you will
„ have experience of it, and find
„ it to the glory of his Name, feeling
„ more then ever that it is good to
„ relye upon the Lord, and upon
„ his faithfullness; which never faileth
„ when there is occasion for it.
„ He doth not visit you (as you know
„ very well & his good Spirit hath
„ taught you) but that he may make
„ you more conformable to him.
„ And is it not a great good, to carry
„ some lineaments of God, who was
„ crucified for the love which he hath
„ had for some of his creatures? You
„ are of the number of those for
„ whom he gave his soul, and spilled
„ his blood. He will marke you
„ herewith by that suffering which
„ he sends to you, that by his own
„ token you may not only be acknowledged
„ for one of his, but
„ that also his love may yet more appear
„ upon you. Rejoice therefore,
„ Mistris and my very worthy Sister,
„ in this love, with which nothing
„ is to be compared. God
„ will exalt you to the cross of Christ

but afterwards he will cause you to
climbe up to himself, and esta-
blish you in his House in his joy &
eternall Glory. Our warfare will
not continue long, and we see by
Faith not only the end of our race,
but we see him also who stands at
the end, and who is all our joy. He
hath his delight to see us to walk in
his ways inanimated with his
love. Our warfare is not concea-
led from him. He seeth & feels it
himself more then we, and his bo-
som is opened to receive us for ever
therein. I wish you from hence-
forth the divine sweetness and
strength thereof, praying to him,
with my whole heart, that he may
perfect in you the works of his
Grace to the eternall glory of his
Sonn.

The Lord having thus comforted
us the second time, by granting us
again his faithfull Servant, & thereby
giving us such speciall matter to
rejoyce for his goodness, & to praise
his might and his love that doth all
things well; did find good for the

third time to put us in the same triall, by which at the last it pleased him to take to himself the humble, patient and complying soul whom he by so many ways had prepared to go and behold him in the blessed day of eternitie and glory. Although we had cause to beleeve, that his evill was perfectly cured, yet however it ceased not to appear again, by the falling down of the self same sharp humors which had caused the first. Which anew obliged us to offer up our selves and our worthy Brother, into the soveraign hands of our God, who made it most apparent to us that there was but little means to cure this evill by outward remedies or by cutting and corrosifs. And because at that time they acquainted us, that there were two persons at Amsterdam, which could cure the very canker it self by another way, we did beleeve, after that we had taken some assurance thereof, that it might not be amis that our Brother should go to Amsterdam, before the evill should come further

further to see if the Lord would be pleased thereby to prevent those sad consequences, which this disease at the last might produce. My worthy Brother having speciall inclination thereunto, went again to Amsterdam, lodging with the same friends of ours, which received him with a new tenderness of heart, and have shewed him a very faithfull and tenderly affected love.

Being there, after that he had heard some Doctors about his state, he was inclined to try the remedies of a person which promised that thereby he would go to the very ground and root of the evill, and hoped to take it quite away. In the beginning there seemed to be some expectation of it the fore affording matter, and seeming to take the course of ordinary wounds. But the cure continuing, and our worthy Brother suffering, and growing weak by the torments, we had new cause to offer him up to God, that he should do with him according to his adorable pleasure, perceiving well, that if the Lord

should not give some change, he would come to leave us at the last, either by the encrease of the evill, or else by his weakness which such remedies might cause. He knowing how tenderly affected we were with the Lords trying of him, and fearing that it might go to near to our hearts, he wrote to me these words with strength of spirit and heart, when yet he was very bad: „I pray you
 „my worthy Brother, and with you
 „all our Brethren and Sisters, that
 „you will not be cast down because
 „of my condition: and even as I am
 „lively affected with this that you
 „hearts keep themselves continually
 „before the Lord for my sake, so
 „pray you likewise that you praise
 „and thank him in the joy of his
 „good Spirit, who is able to give us
 „a thousand reasons to glorify him

About the same time he wrote a letter to one of our sisters, who then was at Utrecht, these words: „You will
 „my very worthy Sister, as you do
 „testify in your letter, that the
 „Lord may keep me longer yet

this life. But do you think that I
 can be to you yet a help and comfort
 in any thing? If it be so, then I
 wish it with you: for if it pleaseth
 God; I am willing to do for his
 Elect and Children all what he
 shall inable me to do for them;
 but if not, what should we else
 wish but to go out of this world,
 that we may be with him? let us
 look upon the things as they are,
 and so as the light of his divine
 word doth shew them to us, and
 then let us judge whether there is
 any thing reall but this, which
 must make us to love life. I had
 some lively feeling yesterday that it
 is a very lovely thing to prepare
 one self to go unto God, and that
 the word whereby a soul may speak
 to it self on this occasion, is very
 comfortable, saying with herself,
*The time approacheth come, let us arise,
 let us go unto him who hath loved us from
 all eternity; and who hath also granted
 us to love him for ever, and to give our
 selves wholly unto him.* God in his
 will and good pleasure, must be

„our All here on earth, and in him
 „self our All eternally above. The
 „Spirit, which he hath given to us
 „worthy Sister, as likewise to his o
 „ther Children in all ages, telleth
 „us this, and maketh us so to feel i
 „in the innermost parts of our
 „hearts, although one doth not all
 „ways receive sensibly the vertue
 „thereof.

The person at Amsterdam who
 had my worthy Brother in hand
 and who had pretended that he
 would work with no other remedy
 but inward, to drive the evil, as
 he said, to the outward parts, did
 afterwards beleeve that he was
 bound to cut of the excrescencys, see
 ing that it continued to long ear it fell
 away of itself. Which together with
 the use of sharp corrosives did cause
 to my worthy Brother very sensibly
 smart, and likewise took much
 way the hope that this man should
 bring it to a perfect cure. Likewise
 the Lord did evidently shew that
 would not use his service to this end
 Persons that have an affection for us

and who shewed themselves to be very sensible of the state of our worthy Brother, spake to us of a french Chyrurgent, in the Hague, which was renowned for having a great secret to cure such kind of maladies. I did write concerning it to my Brother to acquaint him of what was propounded to us: and he receiving at the same time letters in which he was very urgently desired to put himself into the hands of that Chyrurgent. We began to give heed to it, although as my worthy Brother did write to me, he had trouble to pass through so many hands.

But there was then no more to be expected from him who had him in cure, whose remedies were the apparent cause of so many very painfull accidents after which followed great weakness, and a cough which continued with him untill the Lord did deliver him from all suffering, and translated him into his Kingdom. Being in this state he wrote to me with much feeling: „My soul doth praise the Lord, and my heart doth

„adore him in all things with love
 „and reverence. He is great and
 „is good. I give my self to him and
 „to his eternall good-pleasure. My
 „present condition seemeth to be ve
 „ry farr from any recovery, for my
 „strength is almost spent. My bo
 „dy is as broken, and my accident
 „in a state much wors then before
 „for it hath been growing downward
 „for some time. But the Lord is a
 „the end of all, and above all, and his
 „holy will shall be my strength
 „my life and my All for evermore
 After that he further witnessed this
 disposition in which his soul was
 with these words: „I will tell you my
 „worthy Brother, that the Lord a
 „present giveth me but this one sense
 „and mind, which is to leave my self
 „wholly to him, to follow him in
 „that which he shall require of me
 „whether in suffering or in dying
 „and in that manner as he shall thin
 „fit: and that in this sense I have only
 „to follow that which he shall shew
 „to be his pleasure. Me thinketh he
 „hath done all things thus farr to

„bring me to this mind, and to
 „make me to rest therein. And he
 „granteth me likewise so to do by
 „his grace; and if it pleased him to
 „do something more, even as I will
 „neither limite his goodness nor his
 „power therein, this would be som-
 „thing extraordinary and above the
 „expectation which at present he gi-
 „veth me.

For as much as his evill did visibly
 grow worse, and no time was to be
 lost if he was yet to pass over into o-
 ther hands, so the French Chyrurgent,
 whereof I have spoken, came to him
 the second time to see him at Amster-
 dam, and having given more con-
 tentment then at first, so my worthy
 Brother consented to the importunate
 entreaty which was made to him,
 that he should put himself under his
 cure; and the frost coming in, and
 not suffering a longer delay he went
 in a barge to the Hague, there to ex-
 pect what should be the Lords last
 will about him. My worthy Bro-
 ther did then write unto me: „If
 „this is the way by which the Lord

„ will lead me to death, it will like-
„ wise be the way to go to him for
„ whom I long: and I am very sen-
„ sible through his grace that this
„ would be the full measure of his
„ mercy towards me, and the ac-
„ complishment of the desires which
„ the Lord through his good Spirit
„ hath put in the bottom of my heart.
„ Fare well my very worthy Brother
„ whom I do embrace with my whole
„ heart, and with you all our wor-
„ thy Brethren and Sisters, and the
„ called of the Lord, to whom I
„ wish all blessing and increase of
„ grace, even as likewise all the
„ children, whom I do all embrace
„ in this Spirit without exception.
The Lord made us then in a spe-
ciall manner to humble our selves
before him filling us with that
sense which was expressed in the
words of Christ in the garden Gethse-
mane: *Father, if it be possible let this
cup pass by: if not thy will be done:* a-
bout which we did discours the se-
cond time when we were assembled,
submitting our selves with the heart

to what his hand should find good
to do with our worthy Brother,
whom we gave up to him, and put
him anew into his hands. Hereupon
as weak as he was he wrote to me
these words: „Having understood
that the Lord hath inclined your
hearts to humble your selves be-
fore him for my sake, who am a fit
subject for it, so I have felt almost
the same of that which God hath
caused you to experience about his
grace and divine presence: and
following the steps of the same Spi-
rit I find my self in a reall and more
then ordinary disposition, to lay
my self down with his Church,
and in some measure more then she
at his divine feet. Both the words
concerning which you have spoken,
have touched me very much, & the
last words of the Lord Jesus, are
some times those whereby my heart
goeth to God his Father and to him.
The Lord who by his H. Spirit hath
moved your hearts thus to hum-
ble your selves, will also be pleased
with the smell of your prayers for

„his Sons sake. I pray to him
„and thank him with all my heart,
„that whilst he keepeth me in a very
„simple frame, and as one of his
„creatures, which such as it is hath gi-
„ven it self over into his hands. He
„giveth me a very reall sense of his
„presence, and I can not but expect
„all things from his infinite good-
„ness, whatsoever it shall please
„him to do. A little while after I
„did write unto him that his wife our
„worthy Sister was in extraordinary
„weakness, whom the Lord with him
„did cause to draw near to her dissolu-
„tion, even as we have seen in that
„writing which containeth her last
„words and dispositions, and about
„this he wrote to me these words: „
„had not expected that which you
„have written to me concerning the
„weakness of my Sister. It hath ve-
„ry sensibly touched my heart. But
„the Lord having made me to behold
„it in him, it gave me presently
„to adore him, and to give all over
„to him in that spirit which the
„knowledge and love of him doe re-

„quire of us. And in that as in ma-
 „ny other things, he hath made me
 „to find, that through his grace to-
 „wards us he is indeed all to us;
 „and that in the ground we are
 „nothing, nor will any thing,
 „but in and for him. I know
 „not whether he hath fullfilled his
 „will whereof he hath given much
 „likelihood. If it hath pleased him
 „so to do it is without giving me as
 „yet any particular feeling thereof.
 „yet I do not stay there. And
 „through his goodness I do adore,
 „praise, and thank him, that his
 „mercy towards his daughter and
 „handmaid should be accomplished,
 „to his glory and our common con-
 „solation, and in the good favour
 „of the grace of the Lord Jesus. I have
 „loved her, and yet do love her if
 „she be yet amongst us, with a love
 „more tender and worthy of God
 „then I ever did before. But if God
 „of his infinite love hath made her to
 „put of all remainders of mortality
 „and imperfection, taking her to him-
 „self, then I feel that I love her whol-

„ with an other love, and such as a-
„ greeth with that state wherein she
„ should be. In the mean while, un-
„ till we understand more particular-
„ ly the way of God towards her, we
„ shall endeavour to continue in the
„ spirit of compliāce, adoration,
„ and embracing of every will of God
„ both towards her and towards us
„ all. In the following letter I ac-
quainted my worthy Brother that
God in his love had taken her to him
self, with so much edification & com-
fort as the Lord did it. And he wrote
unto me the affections of his heart
in these words : „ I have properly
„ nothing to do but to praise and
„ thank God, about that which he
„ hath been pleased to do in my wor-
„ thy wife, whom he was pleased
„ to take to him self. So much as his
„ Spirit and providence hath made
„ me to be near related to her, so much
„ doth the same Spirit oblige me
„ through his grace towards her to
„ praise him, to acknowledge his
„ work, to comply with it, and
„ to love it with all my heart. and I

likewise thank the same good and faithfull Spirit, that it may please him to work this in me. The work of God is good and beautifull, and I see nothing in it but what must make it all the remaining part of my life precious, lovely and comfortable. The Lord hath enlarged the ground of his Spirit in his hand-maid, at the least in some measure. For I know and feel even as God many times by his Spirit hath made me to see, that there were yet many other propertyes of his grace and strength wholly lovely in her, according as he giveth them particularly to certain simple and innocent souls. But he hath caused his mercy towards her, and the divine fruitfullness and vertue which is in those who have well received his Spirit, to appeare so much, that I have nothing but to praise the Lord for what he hath done. He doth not suffer me to have an other mind about it, and although there is something sensible which transiently doth present it self to me, upon

„ the remembrance that she is no
 „ more with us according to the flesh
 „ yet the truth, and even that sent
 „ according to the Spirit, and of the
 „ state wherein the Lord hath ra-
 „ ken her away, as likewise of the
 „ wherein he hath put her, do
 „ truly swallow up all. And by the
 „ grace of the Lord I love it with all
 „ my heart, that I can not see her no
 „ possess her but in him. The good
 „ favour which it pleased her heaven-
 „ ly Bride-groom to powre forth
 „ coming to take her to him, and
 „ which hath spread forth it self on all
 „ your hearts, and will remain there
 „ as long as her memory shall be pre-
 „ sent with us, this is yet a special
 „ matter of joy to me. She was not
 „ for making much noice about any
 „ thing. All was as shut up in her sim-
 „ plicity, innocency, and pure
 „ faith. But God had pleasure
 „ cause the spikenard and sweet smel-
 „ ling spices that were hidden in her
 „ soul, to give some favour. No
 „ ther do I wonder at it, that
 „ your hearts have been tender

„wards her, for God had given her
 „a love to his work and Church a-
 „mongst us, which was something
 „speciall, and had a respect to the
 „holy Body of Jesus, to the which I
 „did oftentimes perceive that she
 „had a singular and holy inclination.
 „I can not forbear to acknowledge,
 „yea and witness the lively sense
 „which I have of the love which you,
 „and divers brethren and sisters in a
 „speciall manner, and the whole
 „Church in generall have shewed to
 „her. In an other letter he did yet a-
 „gain utter to me what in success of
 „time did touch him about this matter,
 „in these words: „I continue by the
 „goodness of the Lord to feel the
 „great good which he hath done to
 „his handmaid and daughter, and
 „whereof it hath pleased him to cause
 „something to issue down upon us,
 „but especially upon me: which ob-
 „ligeth me all my life-time to praise
 „and thank him as in a speciall sense
 „of the spirit. The good things and
 „benefits of God are not transitory
 „nor fading away, even as those of

„ the world which are nothing but
 „ vanity & changeableness, where-
 „ as those that are his do remain as
 „ him self remaineth. And although
 „ the sense thereof is not always one
 „ and the same, yet their truth is so
 „ reall and efficacious, that they do
 „ never present themselves to the
 „ soul, who is wont to feel them,
 „ without leaving in her always a
 „ lively and divine impression. I
 „ hope that the Lord will make my
 „ worthy Sister always in some sort
 „ present to me, according to this
 „ holy truth in his grace and glory.
 „ I leave her gladly and heartily in
 „ the bosom of her true and eternall
 „ Bride-groom in which she resteth,
 „ possessing him and being possessed
 „ of him. It is enough to me, if the
 „ Lord shall be pleased, that I may
 „ be able to behold him in her by his
 „ Spirit, from time to time, and
 „ her in him, according to that un-
 „ speakable unity, which maketh
 „ them perfect, in one. The good-
 „ ness of God towards her is likewise
 „ a speciall reason to me for to ac-

knowledge his faithfulness, and how one hath but to wait upon him and to leave one self to him, to try his infinite favour. What concerneth the little one, which he was pleased to preserve and at present maketh it weaker, that I do likewise offer up to his infinite mercy, and to Jesus Christ, who hath said that they should bring little children to him. All is his and for him; why should we be willing to keep one moment that which he sheweth to be willing to take? His holy will be done in all things. Before she passed over into the eternall bosom of the Lord, my worthy Brother had written to her divers and very edifying letters, and which were full of a very tender and pure love. In one he uttereth his heart about her in these words: „ Your consolation goeth to my heart, and with as much tenderness as you can desire. I am very sensible of your hearty love. And the Lord maketh me to answer it with the like or perhaps with a greater love. I beseech you

„ that you always doe heartily rest on
„ the Lord, who is good and friend
„ ly to us, and who through his great
„ love hath powred out of his love
„ with his Spirit into our hearts. But
„ you know that this love is neither
„ weak nor encumbred, and as it
„ cometh from God, cleaveth to
„ him, and leadeth to him, so it
„ maketh us to rely on him, and
„ to trust him with all things. Therefore
„ it therefore, I pray you, in respect of
„ me, as of all other things. As for
„ me, I am sometimes so lively troubled
„ therewith, that I say with myself,
„ self, the Lord leaveth us but on
„ his holy care, which is to amend our
„ faults and to praise him for his holy
„ goodness. I pray him that he may
„ be pleased to make you faithful
„ to his holy and tender love. I am
„ much busy with him, admire his
„ goodness and faithfull care, praise
„ him for it in your heart, be diligent
„ to please him, put your self often
„ times in his presence, do that which
„ he calleth you; and you will
„ find that he will fill you with his

goodness. And because she took very sensibly part with him in his state, he wrote to her some time before: „I pray you let us keep our spirits and hearts united with the Lord and his will. Let us suffer him to rule: for his Kingdom is nothing but righteousness and love. Let us feel & acknowledge it before him, and pray him, that he will but grant that we may glorify him. He will do every thing well both with you and the little one, for he takes care for all things. We have but to leave all things to him, and to loose our selves in his hands with love. These were the affections therewith those holy souls were full before their happy decease, which hath united them again in God to all eternity. The Lord afterwards giving our worthy Brother some ease in respect of his sore and smart, and leading our Sister Magdalene (whose last words have been seen already) to her end, he wrote to me very sensibly, and with the spirit of deep humility which was so proper to him:

„ When I do receive any ease from
 „ the Lord, I feel that I owe it as to
 „ the continuall groans and prayers
 „ of his Children, whom he doth
 „ vouchsafe to hear. And so you
 „ may beleieve, that all what his Spi-
 „ rit doth work in them in respect of
 „ me, is for my speciall comfort, and
 „ gives me matter to praise and thank
 „ him, that he hath powred out into
 „ your and their hearts such a tender,
 „ continuall and strong love towards
 „ me. His love through his good-
 „ ness doth not withdraw it self from
 „ me, and he gives me more then e-
 „ ver a desire, that if it be his will
 „ that being delivered from all re-
 „ mainders of imperfection and sinn,
 „ I may speedily go and give him the
 „ honour and glory which I owe him.
 „ But we must wait on him, and suf-
 „ fer him to fullfill his holy Coun-
 „ sell, according to which all things
 „ that relate to us in this life will end.
 „ He bindes and looseth us according
 „ to his good pleasure. He is that
 „ Lord and Master who is wholly
 „ good and Almighty; and I am his

from poor and low creature, and I will
 as to say, that I am as that Asses colt
 yers which our Lord did use in his glori-
 doth ous inrode into Jerusalem. That
 you which you write concerning our
 Spi- Sister Magdalene is very stirring
 ft of and comfortable, and I doubt not
 and but it is to you a speciall matter of
 ank joy and holy comfort. The Lord
 into perhaps will take divers of his Chil-
 der, dren to himself. O what great
 rds good is that for them and for us!
 od- All is prepared for nothing else but
 om him. All must wait for him, and
 a e- truly our joy must be that he taketh
 will then this, then an other, without
 re- having any thing to encumber our
 n, selves with. Greet her heartily my
 the worthy Brother, and according to
 m. that spirit in which two persons,
 uf- who do go from the same ground to
 an- one and the same end, and to which
 gs they both must come, can greet one
 d. the other. The Lord Jesus, who hath
 ng always been so good to her, although
 nat she hath not always sufficiently ac-
 ly knowledged it, bless her; and fil-
 ling her with the Spirit of his grace

„grant that from the heart she may
 „extend her self to his glory. When
 the Lord in his love had taken this
 Sister to himself, then he wrote to
 me about it, and with respect to our
 brother her husband, that which
 touched his heart, „Feeling; my ver-
 „ry worthy Brother, a little strength
 „to write, I was not willing to defer
 „it. The comfort to be able in some
 „measure to answer your love and
 „that of the whole Church, doth ge-
 „to near to my heart, then that
 „should neglect it. The work of
 „grace and of glory, which the
 „Lord hath accomplished in our
 „blessed Sister Magdalene, hath
 „touched us much, but especially
 „me, as who by his goodness do
 „now something near by feel what
 „great good it is to approach near to
 „him, never to be separated from him
 „any more. God seemeth to be wil-
 „ling to comfort us all, causing us
 „to feel that such a good is as above
 „all good, and that our souls must
 „rejoyce at it, and in the spirit
 „must meet him, as through a new

attraction of love. I do thus feel it something, and doubt not but that the Lord doth give almost the same feeling especially to our worthy Brother J. S., being accustomed in a speciall manner to possess the place of al whatsoever he taketh away from those of whom he seemeth to take away any thing. I desire you to greet him in my behalf, and to embrace him heartily, praying the Lord that he will bless the chlidren with a new blessing.

Concerning the state of my worthy Brother in respect of his greef, having had sufficient proofs of the remedies of the french Chyrurgent, and having suffered much of him, he found himself obliged to be discharged from him; seeing by experience that their effect did not answer his words or promises. And Doctor Helverius, who had directed the first cure of his malady, dwelling not farr from the Hague, was desired to take the care thereof again with the Chyrurgent Bekestein. Both have

done it to the end with much
fection and speciall application,
ving a tender feeling of his state
manyfold sufferings. About
same time he thus wrote to me
cerning his state: „My worthy Br
„ther, it is a great comfort to m
„that I can yet from time to tim
„write a word to you. My wea
„ness doth not suffer me to do th
„which my heart and hand wou
„gladly do, and we must leave th
„little comfort, even as all other
„to him allone who governeth an
„disposeth all things, even to t
„least, so as it seemeth him goo
„The state in which it pleaseth hi
„to leave me, doth yet continue
„in that hope, to which there is al
„much likelihood, that he hath
„pened to me the way, whereby
„shall go to him. His name be ble
„sed for it for evermore. It is tr
„that some times I yet hope, even
„I do much wish, that his hand wi
„yet bring me amongst you, and
„grant me there to finish my life
„and to perfect the offering of m

self which I make to him, and of the rest of my days, and of my eternity. But I leave this to him, as all other things. In an other letter he wrote to me in these words: What concerneth me, my worthy Brother, it pleaseth my good Father and Lord to keep me always as in his air, depending on his will and being ready to the same. And for as much as it pleaseth him thus to support me by his good Spirit, I praise and thank him for the state wherein he keepeth me, which causing me to continue in him to be ready for his will, doth cause me to tast very much the sweetness of his love. I am sometimes a little better, and sometimes again worse according to the body, but always very weak, and decaying as to the outward, yet my strength not wholly failing me. Sometimes I admire at my self. My grief through the goodness of God doth not grow, his hand putting bounds to it, to keep it in, without healing of it. So that at the

„same time when I yeeld my self to
 „the Lord to go to him from this
 „place, if it be his will; it is also
 „my great desire to give up my ghost
 „in the communion of his Children
 „and amongst you; and sometimes
 „he giveth some hopes that he will
 „do it. Therefore we thought that if
 „our Brother van D. after the frost
 „should be able to come over to help
 „us, that should be pleasing to me.
 „But if you should have need of him
 „there, or that it might continue so
 „long, or that he should put himself in
 „any danger in coming over, I
 „should not desire that the House of
 „the Lord should be disappointed of
 „the help of his love.

And because as I was especially of
 this opinion that we should not see
 our worthy Brother any more in this
 life, I found my self disposed to signify
 to him the dispositions of my heart
 and of those of my worthy Brethren
 and Sisters concerning him. Which
 I did in my letter whereof I will here
 relate a part, „My very worthy and
 „beloved Brother, it seemeth to me

self to
in this
is also
ghost
children
eternities
he will
that if
e frost
o help
to me.
of him
ue to
elfin
er, I
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ted of
ally of
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n this
signi
hear
ethren
Which
l here
y and
o me,

that God calleth and presseth us to
bid you as the last fare-well, and to
signify what we should say to you,
if we stood about your bed, and
you were compassed about with all
his Children, where with he hath
intimately united you. We do it
then, my worthy Brother, in case
we may not have that holy com-
fort, as to see you again in this
life. You go to our God and to
your God. You pass over to the
bosom of our common Father.
You approach to the dwelling-
place of his glory, and you will
shortly see Jesus glorified. Go,
my worthy Brother, follow the
Lamb which leadeth you to him,
and who having brought you to
him, will for ever keep you with
him. We follow you in Spirit
with heart and affection, The eja-
culations of our love do accompa-
ny you; and even as we do very
lively feel your departure, so like-
wise we thank our great Redeemer
for the redemption which he will
give you from all what you might

„yet endure. We do likewise very
 „sensibly take part of that unspeakable
 „happinels to which Jesus our
 „faithfull Saviour shall for ever receive
 „you. He hath loved you.
 „He hath given you to love him,
 „and he will crowne his love in you.
 „He is our God, our King, and our
 „All. Let him eternally rule over us.
 „Let him fill us, possess us, and
 „do with us according to his Divine
 „pleasure. You shall behold the
 „King in his glory. You shall behold
 „him in the great day of his triumph,
 „and seeing him you shall be
 „satisfyed with all good. All your
 „pains shall cease with him, and
 „you shall do nothing but praise and
 „thank him with all his Saints,
 „whom he hath received into his
 „happinels, for his unspeakable
 „grace, and for the glory where in
 „he shall have placed you in that
 „happy eternity. I tell you the
 „heart of all our very worthy Brethren
 „and Sisters: but I tell you,
 „my very worthy Brother, especially
 „mine. God, who hath made

us one in him by such an inward & narrow bond, will keep us forever united together in his eternall love, and according to his good pleasure will grant us once that we shall rest together in his bosom. I embrace you, & leave & give you to him, who is and will be to you and us all what ever he shall will or do. For all what he doth it is good, and glorious to his name, & wholesome and saving to his Children.

When I had written this letter to him, and one of our Sisters, who was with him at the Hague, telling him the same evening when he received it, you could very well go to the Lord my worthy Brother, without coming again to his House: he answered her: „ This could be; and if the Lord doth it tell my worthy Brethren and Sisters, that I do go to God with all my heart, that I do remain lively convinced of those truths which he hath caused us to profess to his glory, and that I do die contented in the state and place wherein I am, although I have not

„ the comfort of seeing them. I shall
„ die contented, being near by as
„ Moses, and yet being not able to
„ enter.

God having given him a great love for his Children and sheep, whereof he had made him a Shepherd, he wished very simply that he might give up his ghost in the midst of us, if it was the will of our heavenly Father. And likewise on the other side seeing that there was no perfect cure to be expected, he wished that he might have ended here the last moment of his transitory life. He himself had some times this hope, as he wrote, when the Lord at the last opened the water and seemed to give means for his transportation. But it was not but only to bring over his body without life, and separated from his soul, which did rest with Christ Jesus in the happy bosom of his glory, before his body was brought here to rest, in the place where those of the other Children of the Lord were laid: which he innocently did signify to be his desire,

whilst likewise he left it fully to the Lord to do there with as he should think fit, and to his Children to do what God should put in their hearts, and according as his holy Providence should permit.

The Lord having already caused him to give a great and manyfold witness of his grace and the goodness of his ways towards him, he found good at the end, and whilst my worthy Brother was at the Hague, for the most part to keep him in a state of silence or speaking little, having gotten a dry cough, and which was very incommodious to him as soon as he spoke, constraining him as wholly to gather himself together within himself before God, and to consume himself in silence and simplicity of heart as a lamb upon Gods altar, or as a burning lamp which did breath out all her strength upward, to God and to Jesus his King and Saviour. Which did not hinder but that from time to time he constrained himself to utter, as there was opportunity, that which he felt of

God, of his love, and of his holy
Myfterys „Which, once he faid, were
„fo lively and purely printed upon
„his heart by the Spirit of Jefus
„Chrift, as if they were there writ-
„ten in great and very legible letters.
„He added there to, I knew before
„the fame truths by education, and
„afterwards by ftudy; but all what
„God doth not imprint by his
„Spirit is inftable, and may be
„overturned with a shadow. Upon
an other occafion he faid, „Humili-
„ty is a very effentiall grace; it is
„better then all raptures of the
„fenfes. He faid to one who came
to vifit him in his great weaknefs,
„Our breath indeed is between our
„lips, and it is the Lord truly that
„keepeth it there. This perfon
fpeaking to him of the ftudy of Divi-
nity in refpect of the office of preach-
ing, he faid unto him very fenfibly:
„There is need of a fpeciall grace,
„and afterwards of a calling from
„God, and then yet God muft fup-
„port under fuch a burden. For the
„decay of the Church is much come

from thence that men without the Spirit, and those which have not been called thereunto of the Lord, have been brought upon the pulpit. He added to it, It is certain if one doth well consider what this holy office doth require, and God not giving speciall measures of his Spirit, that in steed of addicting oneself thereunto, one should rather go and dwell in a wood or a wilderness, even as divers holy men have formerly done. And there upon he told him something which he had known and practised by his own experience, untill the Lord had obliged him to follow and to serve him in the work of the ministry, which he had laid upon him for his Kingdom and for his glory.

That day he spoke something more then ordinarily, but he found him self much wearied in the evening, being taken with a generall cold and much weakness. And as they would give him something for his refreshment and to pass the night the better, he said: „ Must one do

„so much for a body that is already
 „half dead, and that which I shall
 „lay down so speedily? A little after
 it seemed as if he was taken with
 some sleep, but the cough coming
 upon him and continuing for two
 hours, did hinder him from sleep-
 ing. Yet afterwards being asked
 how he found himself, he said, *Very*
well, with a joyfull mind and hearty
 contentment, yeelding himself a-
 gain to the arms of the Lord, and ex-
 pecting from him the rest which he
 should be pleased to give him the re-
 maining part of the night. And the
 Lord gave him such rest, that he
 found himself in the morning to be
 much refreshed.

The next evening composing him-
 self to rest, the cough hindered him
 from sleeping, even as it did ordina-
 rily; and for as much as they would
 stay with him to help him in what he
 might have need of, he refused it say-
 ing: *The Lord and I allone, that goeth*
always best. The more one will do the
worse it goeth. Yet he coughed that
 night very much, almost without

sleeping any thing; and because they were something troubled that he had been left allone, he answered sensibly: *The Lord being present is not that enough?*

The Saturday having wearied him self much, he likewise slept little at night. But he wondered that he found himself not to be more faint for it. Yet finding himself weaker after that he was risen, he said with quietness of mind and inward contentment of heart: *It will not continue long. These days will shew what the issue will be.* And when they did confirm it to him, he shewed himself to rejoyce much at it, saying: *O what a good thing is it to see that the Lord is near by? He can come at all hours, and I do also expect him at all times.*

On the Sunday he desired that they should write to Mr. Bardewisch and his wife, to entreat them that they should be pleased to come to see him for the last time, if it could be done without great inconvenience. Furthermore he did with much affection admonish a person who was with him

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To be very faithfull to the Spirit which the Lord had begun to give to her, well to die to herself, to live more then ever in the presence of God, and to give herself as anew again to Jesus Christ and his Work: and further recommending her to write to me the feeling of her heart.

Our Sisters van der Haer asking him whether he had nor any thing in particular to tell them, he answered them: „I leave you in the hand of „God and of his Spirit. You know „that it is much our course to leave „and recommend souls to God. His „Spirit will lead you, and in his „time teach you all things. Referr „your selves to him, and he will „do all things well. Give your- „selves more then before to God and „his Work, and take my worthy „Brother for your Father. The „Lord will take care for his Work. „He hath no need of me, and he „will encrease his grace in others to „the enlargement of his Kingdom „& glory. Let us leave God to do it, „for he will do all well. The same evening his Cousin coming to visit

him, and shewing himself to be sad to see him in that state, he said to him, *It is the state in which the Lord putteth me, to cause me to draw near to him. Likewise I do embrace the same with love. Our life indeed here is transitory, and it is very just that we should bestow it wholly for him and for his glory.* Whereupon he took leave of divers as making him self ready to go from time to eternity, and from the world to God to whom his heart went forth without ceasing.

The next day Doctor Helvetius *The 17.* being come to visit him, he found him very weak, so that he said perhaps the Lord will shortly make that great change. Whereunto our worthy Brother did answer, *That it was to him very acceptable news:* and furthermore talked much with him of that contentment which the Lord gave him, seeing his end to be so near by; for the rest thanking him for his affection and care and exhorting him to live the remainder of his days for the Lord. After which he wished to him the blessing of God upon his person & his family. In the e

vening our worthy brother Mr. Bar-
dewisch and his wife being come
from Amsterdam, their presence
was such a great joy to him, that he
seemed as to receive a new life and
new strength, because his affection
to them was very tender, even as
likewise theirs towards him had been
very reall and effectuell.

The 18.

On Tuesday morning he was bet-
ter, and asking what kind of wether
it was, when he heard that it conti-
nued to thowe, and that the Zouth-
sea was already open, so he informed
him self if there was any means, if
the Lord should give him more
strength, to bring him to Amsterdam,
that he might go from thence to Frie-
land if God thought it fit. And be-
ing told that there was, the way from
the Hague to Amsterdam being
grown very soft by reason of the
snow, he rejoyced thereat saying, that
„ he had yet courage to betake him-
„ self upon the journey if the Lord
„ would, although, said he, I have
„ referred all this to him. I thought
„ not but to remove out of this life;

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and should the Lord yet be willing
to give me that comfort to see my
worthy Brethren and Sisters,
which in truth would be one of the
greatest to me, which I should be
able to desire here below? If then
the Lord is thus purposed we must
fit our selves accordingly, yea and
make some hast. The Doctor and
Chyrurgent found it not unadvised,
saying contrarily that the complying
with a harmles desire of a sick person
many times could cause great alteration
for good. Against noon it seemed
as if he had gotten more strength and
even to eate with some appetite. The
Doctor likewise then took his last
leave of him, and our worthy Bro-
ther exhorted him again very affecti-
onately that he should live for God
and his glory, wishing heartily to
him the blessing of the Lord. The
Lady of Ouwerkerk, who had so
continually shewed towards him her
tender and carefull love being come
to visit him, and the black more that
serveth her, asking how it was with
him, he let him come in to ask him,

whether he had not felt any thing of God in his heart. On which the black more answering, that for some years since he was become a Christian, then said he unto him: „ This is „ not the thing that I ask you, for if „ you do not deny the affections of „ the world & love the Lord Jesus in „ truth, all your profession of being „ a Christian will not help you. „ And it is not Baptism in water that „ saveth us, nor the profession that „ maketh a Christian. Those whom „ God maketh such, he giveth „ them a heart which in the „ ground seeketh nothing else but „ him, and that loveth not the things „ of this world: and this is it where- „ of I ask if you have felt any thing. Further earnestly admonishing him to pray the Lord that he might be pleased to give him that precious grace.

In the evening being much tired he said: „ *This is a day of much weary somnests, I can not much more.* Also it was nine at clock before he could betake himself to rest. After supper

all but in their passing by having taken their leave of him, not to trouble him any more, he remained till midnight sitting up to his bed coughing continually, without being able to put down his head, but he began again to cough more then ordinarily. And for as much as that continued long, & as they saw that he could not be in a condition the next day to go for Amsterdam if it continued so, he said divers times with great heart stirring motion. *Let the Lord doe what ever he will, it shall be well.* Afterwards having desired that every one should take their rest, then he laid himself down in simplicity of heart in the arms of God and of his Fatherly bosom, and fell a sleep. But the person that remained about his bed, heard speedily that his sleep was not ordinary but very heavy, whereupon one of our Sisters van der Haer arose to look after him, who found his face much altered; and yet having waited him, our worthy Brother said unto her, *That he found him self reasonably well. I find myself, said he, stron-*

ger then yesterday : so he was left to sleep again. But seeing it was as before, it was thought not without reason that this might likely cause some change. Then our worthy Sisters both being come to him they found his hands to be cold, & sweat to lay upon his face and withall they saw, as soon as they spoke to him, that he was filled with the sense of the Lords coming near to him, whereby he cried out as being transported with an unspeakable joy.

O good & most lovely Jesu, art thou so near to me, what love, O my Lord, O eternal love, what goodness doest thou not shew to me. What infinite mercy doest thou not shew to me, O my God, that thou comest so speedily to my soul to receive & take it into thy bosom O beloved eternity! In this going out of his heart & spirit he spoke yet divers other the like words, which are not remembred, as also many others which upon divers occasions he had uttered with great affection of heart.

These last in a speciall manner could not be all remembred because they were employed to give him what necessary help they could, it

this unexpected and extraordinary weakness. One of our Sisters van der Haer telling him, well my Brother you go to our God, and to Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who cometh to take you to himself; he answered with an excellent stirring motion of heart and mind: *O what an infinite happiness!* And speaking to her, he asked, *whether she had given notice of his state,* and understanding that she had done it he was well satisfied, and coming again to him who possessed his heart, and who did wholly take him to himself, he said with a holy joy, and as in a spirituall exultation: *O what love, lovely Jesu! What a wonderful love is it not, that he vouchsafeth to take sinners to himself?* Being asked whether he was not in anguish, he answered, *Not in the least;* and our Sisters entreating him to tell them whether he found not any particular unease, he answered, *No, but I feel a power of weakness which ceaseth upon me and leadeth me to God.* They desired him to take a little cordiall, which was at hand. But he had trouble to

take it, desiring to have taken a little beer: But our Sister telling him that perhaps he would be something strengthened thereby, and be able the better to speak to them he consented to it and took it with simplicity. But because his arm being already grown stiff, he brought his hand higher then his mouth, and had need to have it to be directed. Having taken that which was desired, and being asked whether he yet knew the persons, he answered no. But his heart going out always to Jesus the beloved of his soul, his tongue had yet strength enough to bosom out these words: *O infinite goodness! O eternall happiness! O what love is it, that Jesus draweth near to us, and at the last receiveth us into his glory!* Not being able to proceed, by reason of his weakness that overwhelmed him, and which did cause him to draw near to his full deliverance, and one of our Sisters telling him, that a ravishment of love besides a power of weakness did take him away to God, he then nodded with his head that it was

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so, and inforcing himself, he spoke
yet these words, *Let the Lord do.*
Where upon stretching himself out,
he fell a sleep a little while after, in
the arms of the Lord sleeping the
sleep of the righteous, entering into
that eternall rest which God hath
prepared for his favourites, and
from that time enjoying that eternall
and unchangeable joy, where with
the Lord Jesus hath decreed in his
unspeakable love to fill all his faith-
full servants. And in this simple
and pure manner and so full of fee-
ling he is gone to God, and into his
most blessed and happy bosom: he
hath given up his soul to him, in the
spirit of this tender and thankfull
love; and in that impression of this
unspeakable and glorious joy,
which is proper to the Children of
God and those who go to behold the
face of their Father, hath he left
the world and all what is here be-
low, to be fully and eternally uni-
ted with God and Jesus Christ his
Lord and Saviour.

I have not purposed to give notice

of those graces which God had communicated to our very worthy and blessed Brother, otherwise then only by propounding that which I have related concerning him in this description; and I beleeve that those who shall read it in simplicity, will there by in some measure perceive what spirit it was where with God had indowed him, and sufficiently see that light which God had powred out into his soul, the purity where with he had filled his heart, the strength and patience which he hath shewed so much in all his torments, his constant love to the will of God, and how he embraced and received the same in all what happened, his intimate union with Christ Jesus, his tender love for souls, his faithfulness always to bring them again to God, his perfect resignation of that which with the most ground and the most innocency he did love, the deep humility which was so very eminent in him, even to the end; the joy where with he is passed through the vally of the shadow of death unto

the eternall day of glory, and lastly
 the simplicity of spirit and heart,
 wherein he hath finished the last time
 of his transitory life on earth. God
 had before that caused all those other
 graces and vertues, which were gifts
 of his precious love to his soul,
 much to appear in him; but in the
 end he would shew them all in a spe-
 ciall manner under this property of a
 diuine simplicity, which is so pure,
 essentiall, and lovely, and so un-
 known to humane vertue and spirit,
 which is nothing else but formall cir-
 cumstanciall and custom, even then
 when he is most naked and empty of
 the truth of the matter. Likewise all
 those, that do well belong unto the
 Lord and who at all times are not
 only prepared to go to him, but
 likewise do above all things long for
 it, these have not so much need to
 prepare them selves for this last hour,
 as is thought, that which is the ful-
 filling of all their wish and longing
 and which they have so many times e-
 uen as prevented by a lively faith and
 upright love. Therefore it was that Ja-

cob and the other Patriarks, David and other Saints, although they lived under an administration which had much of terrour and fear in it, and especially Stephen and the first Christians, did look upon death as it came with so much peace and joy and embraced it with so much simplicity of heart. They fell asleep in silence, and without making much noise, in the arms of God and of Jesus their Saviour, even as this most happy soul hath done, who said some time before her passage to eternity that she found herself as a sheet of paper flying in Gods air, and that she was ready to turn it self whithersoever the Lord would upon the least puff of his wind, whether it was to live or whether to die or to change place, leaving it self with joy to his Divine pleasure, to move it and to drive it before his eyes as he should find it good. The good pleasure of the Lord was to translate him for ever into his rest, leaving to us a special example of Christian suffering and a lively instruction how we must carry

all sorts of crosses and torments. And yet this was as hidden from this humble and pure soul: so that a certain person coming to visit him, and who seemed to be touched with that Spirit in which she saw him suffering, saying to him one time, you are indeed to us an example of suffering, he answered her very affectionately *indeed an imperfect example. Take that of Jesus Christ which is perfect.*

The Lord had bestowed upon my worthy Brother a very speciall grace for the helping of souls, and to lead them in his true ways, which he knew by a lively and speciall experience. And this was that which made him when he spoke of them to speak thereof with so much heart, with so much light, and with so much liveliness, as that it made the truth to enter into the ground of hearts and souls. He was very good and tender about them, and withall he was very faithfull to them, and did proceed to work, as there was need, with a great strength and steadfastness of spirit. His zeall for their true good did burn

him inwardly and he took so truly part with every ones state, that it was seen indeed that he suffered with them that suffered, did humble himself with sinners, and did rejoyce with those whom God did comfort, joyning himself heartily with every one to help him to bear his burden the better. I will say no more of it, and do not say even this little, but only for such as have not known him: for those which have conversed with him have no need of it; and the impression which they have of that which the Lord hath laid in this vessell, is indeed much greater then that which I have here said to the glory of God, shall be able to give to those others.

ADVISE.

HAVING thus farr related the last words and Dispositions of such of us, who are happily deceased, of whom we have kept more particular remembrance; we shall now say something yet concerning those whom God before them hath taken to himself, although many times we have but little to produce about them, because then we did not consider the publick use which might be received there by, yet however that which we shall say concerning these, shall be as certain and faithfull as that which we have related concerning those others to the glory of God & the good of his Elect. The life which God hath caused these faithfull souls to live, of whom we shall now speak, could not otherwise but be crowned with a lovely & blessed death, which was for them only that great step which thus they have made to the true life, which they enjoy with Jesus Christ for ever and ever.

The state and last Dispositions of certain persons whom God hath taken into his rest since the year 1672. untill the year 1680.

*Deceased in
the year
1672. in the
month of Fe-
bruary.*

THe first person whom God was pleased from amongst us to deliver perfectly, was our Sister Margaret Cornelis Kruick of Gorcum, who formerly served with Master Teling, and dwelled with him in all the exercises of piety, which he performed in his house. The first inclination which she got to the work of the Lord among us was when she dwelled at Rotterdam, with people who did hear with great favour the truths of a Christian life, by us propounded; and because she gave them some trouble, by tying her self after a humane manner to divers things in which men frequently do make godliness to consist, although it doth not consist therein, they desired me to talk with her about it. Which I did according as I saw that her state did require: where by she got so much light, and was tou-

of Margaret Cornelis Kruyck. 221

shed so lively that she from that time
took a course which was quite other
wise zealous, upright and essentiall.
And feeling what it was to worship
and to adore God in spirit and truth,
she was much bent and inclined
unto those means which God made
use of to enlighten her and to touch
her heart. She was more faithfull
then her Master and Mistris, and
went before them in the way of the
Lord, who themselves took pain to
keep her at Rotterdam when God cal-
led us to Herfort, and she found her
self inwardly pressed to come there.
God made use of one person, who
disposed her Mistris so as to let her
go; who shortly after him self was to
her a hinderance & temptation besides
others. But nothing was able to
move her, nor to disturb her. She
said, *The whole world shall not be able to*
hold me. I find not only feet to go thither,
but also wings to fly. Now being come
to Herfort God did work so visibly
and powerfully in her soul, that the
work of Christ did quickly manifest
it self in her, so that in testimony

thereof in a little time we acknowledged her for a member of his Church amongst us. Her zeal made her untired in the service of God, and of his Children. Nothing was painfull to her. Nothing was too much to her; and that was seen in her which once a holy man said concerning pure love, *That she doth not know what painfulness & heaviness is, that she can not endure the name thereof, and will not have a man to speak of it.* Her readines to every will of God was very speciall. Sometimes in such occasions which were some trials, she said: *every will of the Lord is good, and there is no difference.* She did frequently enjoy a great peaceableness of mind, and an unspeakable truly heavenly joy. The Lord disposed it so that she was one of the first amongst us who was to make a journey for Holland. And for as much as at that time the world and evill men were as enraged against that work which God through his grace did form amongst us, therefore on that side we had not a little to suffer, as also of many who being held

of Margaret Cornelis Kruick. 223
for pious and good, were possessed
with a blind and bitter zeal against
that which they knew not, or even
would not know. But God streng-
thened her in a speciall manner, and
made her to stand fast against all.
Her friends would not suffer her to
dispose of her goods, which she per-
ceiving, suffered them to keep the same
without looking any more after them:
and so she returned to the place where
her heart was, and where God in such
a speciall manner had caused her to be-
hold his glory, as she did write in
a letter to one of her friends. And
because afterwards she went with
great paces forward towards the mark
of her heavenly calling, it was told
her in one of our *examinations*, that
the Lord prepared her for to enjoy
much communion with him: which
God did quickly afterwards fulfill,
translating her into his heavenly
Kingdom. She was taken with a ve-
ry burning hot fever, when we were
yet at Herfort, which took her away
in few days. She did suffer with
much love, and referring of her self

214 *Dispositions and last words*
to the will and pleasure of God. *It*
is the Lords will, said she, *and likewise*
mine. And perceiving that the Lord
drew near, then she said with great
joy: *I am passing over unto life; should*
not I then rejoyce? She had much in
her heart and mouth the words of one
of our songs, in which the soul speaketh to God thus:

*In a book
called Holy
Songs p. 90.*

*O thou who art my dearest Love,
It is my whole desire,
On thee to place my heart above,
Allone with love intire.*

The sense of her sins which God had given to her, whether they were those which she had committed in the ways of the world, or in the ways of those that are ordinarily devout, was oftentimes very lively present with her. But her trust in Christ Jesus, and her burning love towards him consumed all. And in this disposition she went over to him, being about 24. years old, that she might for ever be united with him.

*In the month
of Aprill.*

The second person whom God through his grace hath taken up into his glory, was our Brother Laurence

Autein, born at Paris in France, but who lived for the most part at Middleburgh in Sealand. He was a book-binder by his trade, and from his youth he had endeavoured to serve God in some uprightness of heart. One of our Brethren by the Providence of the Lord coming to his shop and speaking with him, his heart was touched there by, and feeling himself drawn to give him self wholly over to the Lord, we therefore a little while after at his earnest request took him into our house, being assured in himself that there he should find great helps and means to live unto God, in that faithfulness which his Spirit requireth and his word prescribeth to us. His naturall disposition was something disadvantageous to him and did give him oftentimes trouble. But the Lord granting to him much faithfulness of heart, and a lively hatred against that which is evill, with an inward desire that in all things he might please God, yet not withstanding he continued steadfast unto the end in his way, and was always a

comfort to us. He loved the Children of God with a tender love, and was very faithfull, and gave strictly heed to all what was committed unto him, being carefull of that which was of the Lord truly through his love. And for as much as he was as yet to stay at Amsterdam, with two of our Brethren, when we went for Herfort, he afterwards received the comfort to come to us and to enjoy communion with this body of Christ, whereof his grace had made him a true member: but a wasting and pining ague, which turned into a consumption, did not long afterwards take him out of this world. And because the most of us were to dwell at Zonderen, being a contry-house near by Herfort, he was desirous to be brought thither, notwithstanding his weakness: and being come thither he was very glad that he might die in the midst and as it were in the arms of those with whom God had made him one heart and one soul both for time and eternity. And likewise God did soon hear his desire, and de-

livering him from all his sufferings he translated him eternally into his happy rest.

The third person, whom God took from the midst of us to him whilst we were yet at Zonderen, was our Brother Samuëll Spikershoff, of middleburgh, a Baker by his trade, he had been as yet a little while amongst us, when the Lord took him away: yet this happened not untill he had done his work in him in a very visible and speciall manner. Our brother D. his brother in law, having spoken with him divers times, at middleburgh of the work of the Lord among us, he felt thereunto such an inward inclination, that he could not stay so long till his Brother in law was to depart, who likewise was about to come over with his household to us. God also by the effect did shew that his time was short, seeing he took him to himself before his sister and brother in law were come to us. As for him the zeal which he shewed to come thither, and the joy which he felt at his departure were not to be ut-

tered. Day and night he was full of this desire, and the hope which he had that God would cause himself to be found of him in the midst of his Children, and to communicate himself to him, by those speciall means which in his love he gave amongst them, this did even transport him beyond himself, and out of all other things. On this subject he did often times sing with a lively feeling of heart the words of David Psalm 27.

I had fainted, if I had not been comforted that I should see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

" My heart would faint but that in me, This hope is fixed fast:

The Lord Gods good grace shall I see, In life that aye shall last.

God did hear the desire of his soul, and in his good Providence did bring him to Herfort, where presently he came to his heart to do his work there in, to the great comfort of us all. The inclination which he had to that which God did amongst us, had already begun to draw of his heart from the world, and from himself. But when he did see and hear nearby that whereof the Lord had given him so much impression

when whilst he was afarr of, then he felt quite an other thing in his soul. Besides although he did not live long amongst us, yet the Lord even some time before his death gave witness that he was in a frame to be admitted into the number of members of his Church amongst us; and we were just ready to acknowledge him for such, when he was suddainly taken sick, and shortly afterwards he died of that sickness. But what could not then be done according to the ordinary manner, and expresly in the assembly of the Church, this was fully testified unto him in his sickness. In which God did perfect our comfort, and did very compleatly enlarge the work of his grace and mercy in him. And because before his sickness divers things were to be done, he therefore did betake himself to all whatsoever the Providence of God did lay before him, with such a love and courage of mind, being supported by his zeal towards God, that we could not choose but be very much touched with it, and moved

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to give thanks to God for that heart where with he inabled him to do all things, and for that holy forgetfulness of himself which did most manifestly appear in his whole conversation. When some times we shewed some admiration at his great readinesse to take upon him, and to do all whatsoever did occur, he said with a great deal of simplicity and humility: *I would willingly be as Samuell, & be able to say with him in all things, speak Lord for thy servant heareth.* We going for Zonderen, he remained some while with certain others at Herfort, for something which he had yet to do there. And although this did not happen without some deniall of himself, yet however it was with his accustomed embracing of the will of the Lord, which he followed in all things with great love. But when he came to us in the contrey, where on the one side he found him self discharged from the conversation with the people of this world, with whom he had to do in the city, and on the other side where he could as it were

of Samuell Spikershoff. 231

breathe in the pure and free air of the house of God, he said with much feeling, *it is as if I was no more on earth.* Neither was he there long, for presently being taken sick in a short time he passed over to heaven. Applying him self sometimes to the Lord Jesus we heard him uttering these words, *my Father, teach me thy wayes* and finding himself at the point of going to him, he was then as wholly transported with that joy unspeakable and full of glory, whereof the Apostle Peter speaketh to the Faithfull.

He had a great and truly Christian love to the Children and servants of the Lord in common; but he shewed to have a very speciall and tender affection for that great and faithfull servant of God Mr. de Labadie as being the speciall instrument, where by his spirit was pleased to do so much good both to him and us. We never heard him complain in his sickness. His heart was alwayes well at peace: it praised and blessed God without ceasing. The holy and inward joy of his mind did appear in

232 *Dispositions and last words*

his face, and gave to him as it were a heavenly countenance, and it did imprint something that was divine in all those who saw him and spoke with him: seeing he had many visits, not only because he loved it much, but because one could never go away from him but with comfort and joy for the grace which God did bestow upon him. One bringing something to him for his refreshment, he took it with acknowledgement and humility, speaking these words, *Blessed are the mercifull for they shall obtain mercy.* Having need to be kopped, and he who kopped him, not being well experienced there in, he caused him much pain; but he suffered it with a laughing mouth and speciall patience. And when he saw that the happy instant was even come, that he should depart this world, and pass over to God, he asked if his brother in law was not yet come, and having understood that he was not come, he spoke with great assurance of faith, *then I shall see him here after, for in my fathers house are many mansions.* Being

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full of the glory of Christ, he would
some times cry out with love and
gladness, *Jesus is King. He shall rule,*
and his Children shall see it and rule with
him. Being asked whether he was
not contented with what God did,
and would do to him, he answered
yes with all my heart. And seing he
was just at his end, we presented
him again before the Lord in prayer,
and saw him to join with a right
godly zeal in what was spoken to
God. He died in prayer, although at
the beginning he himself uncovered
his head with the others shewing his
reverence for God. Thus this most
blessed soul fell asleep in his arms.

The Lord having taken to him self
at Altena by Hamborrow Mr. de La-
badie, whom indeed he had given to
us for a Father, in that comfortable
manner as shall be seen elsewhere;
our Sister *Elizabeth Sluyters* was the
fifth person amongst us, whom God
took up into his full rest. She ha-
ving been a long time estranged from
the true and lively knowledge of
God, was touched by the Spirit of

In the year
1674. in the
month of Oc-
tober.

God at Wesell being the place of her birth. And after she had felt a great smart for her former life, and an overwhelming of her heart by reason of the weight of her sins, she also in some measure had tasted the sweetness and loveliness of grace, God causing her some times very lively to feel his presence. Yet for as much as this did not continue long, and she found afterwards trouble with her self, and that she was burdened with the burden of the world, and of her own corruptions, she was glad to hear that which God did amongst us at Amsterdam. Coming there and finding that which her heart did seek, she could not leave it, but went with us to Herfort: from whence she went some time afterwards to Wesell, being full of joy because of that great grace which God had bestowed upon her in bringing her in the midst of his Children. She quickly returned again with full approbation of her parents to consecrate her self to God more then ever before, and to addict her self to his service. Some time af-

afterwards God came to her soul in some
 speciall manner and communica-
 ted him self to her in love, so as that it
 continued with her for the most part
 till the time of her death. This made
 her commonly to be of such a quiet
 heart, and so joyfull of spirit, so full
 of the praise of God, as that we could
 say that it was continually in her
 mouth, and lastly very thankfull for
 those great and good things which
 Christ Jesus is come to obtain for his
 people. When we were come to Alte-
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 Christ our Lord, that we saw her as
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 she was taken sick, she was much in-
 clined to walk upon our Church-
 yard, there seeking and often times
 finding him whom her heart loved, &
 lifting up her soul to him from that
 place, which she considered as that
 which should be the place in which
 her body was to be kept. God purely

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& allone took her to him self, & did as it were snatch her from her self. She said some times, *One single sight of our selves, or care for our selves doth some times cause Gods face to be hidden from us. It is a partition-wall between God and our souls.* Some of us admiring to see her to be so simple and without care, there upon she said: *I can not trouble my self about what is to come. This I leave and trust to my God, and to Jesus my Lord. for the present time I am only busy with one only thing, and this thing is God. And me thinketh that this one thing is enough, as the Lord Jesus hath said.* She found her self to be much drawn up to God, by the means of that song, beginning thus, *O Divine Possessour of my soul &c.* in which is described a very pure and divine state of the soul. She sung like wise with great affection an other, in which are found these words.

Holy Songs
p. 250.

Ibid. p. 4.

*O perfect All! O fulness of all blefs!
O highest good, and supream happiness!
O thou my God, how full must I needs be,
when in my heart, I have obtained thee!*
She had furthermore a great inclinati-

on to one of our Decades in the 3.
exercise, in which there is set forth a
generall lifting up of the mind to the
Holy Trinity; and she was penetra-
ted with a lively sense when she did
sing out those pure expressions, as
likewise the words of our Holy Po-
ems, which begin thus;

*O adorable God, inflame my heart with
love,*

*To see thy Face with Joy, cause me to long
for thee.*

*Thee to embrace allone, lift up my soul
above,*

That having thee O God, I satisfied be.

Which words did often times very
much stirr her heart, and did so
draw her up to God, that her soul
like that of David did sometimes faint
in the outgoings of her heart to him
who drew it, and who caused it to
burn and to faint with love in his
presence.

She used to say sometimes, *If one
could one would willingly powr out the grace
which God hath shewed to us, into the
souls of our neighbours. But Jesus him-
self must powr it out that in truth it may be*

his work. She said on some occasion, *How can any one resist the will of God after that it is once known? What is to be said when God declareth that he will have a thing to be done by us? We have to do no more but to love to do that lovely will of his.* And further she said, *It is God who chooseth and maketh our way for us. He is master of our heart and his Spirit worketh there in according to his good pleasure.* She had a very lively and pure impression of the work which God had formed amongst us, and she could not sufficiently express her thankfulness, that he was pleased to grant her some share therein. God being willing to take her to himself, sent her a kinde of consumption, or a pining and very painfull sickness; and seeing the same did continue long, therefore the remainders of her corrupted nature, which were yet in her, and which God would mortify & take away before he took her into his glory, by the means thereof had occasion to enlarge it self. So that in some cases not having been faithfull enough to the Spirit of pati-

grace and purity, which the Lord
 had caused her to feel so very much,
 she therefore found our selves necessi-
 tated earnestly in faithfulness and
 love to propound this to her. Which
 she received with so much faith and
 compliance, that from that time we
 saw her a fresh to go in the Spirit of a
 lively and earnest repentance, which
 from day to day made her more ac-
 ceptable to God, and more precious
 to his whole House. She said, *I am*
ashamed before the face of the Lord. O how
much he caused the truth to be told to me!
I find my self there by as wholly again in-
lightened, and so disburdened that it is as
if an infinite burden was taken away from
my heart. O what great sinner am I?
 She said with great tenderness, *My*
God if thou shouldest mark iniquitys, O
Lord who shall stand? But there is for-
giveness with thee that thou mayest be fer-
red. The 86. Psalm, *Bow down*
thine eare O Lord &c. was then likewise
 oftentimes in her mouth and in her
 heart. Even as She always hath had
 a speciall impression of the greatness
 of Christ his suffering, so likewise

then she was in a special manner there with affected, heartily taking her refuge to the same, and being wholly and thoroughly penetrated with it. She could then have been contented to suffer, not only as Christian, and as the image of Christ, but as a penitent sinner whose portion is humility and smart. She said, *I would yet very willingly suffer more, with great tenderness, finding that this was so much due to her.* Therefore she thought that she was not yet to die, not believing that her full redemption was so near by, and that her suffering was so near to an end. But the Lord causing us to see that her dissolution drew near, thereupon we declared to her this good message, which she received in faith, from that time not doubting but God would speedily take her to him self. Likewise there was seen instantly a pure and lively joy to spread it self all over her, with a fervent longing that she might speedily go unto Jesus her Lord and Saviour. It appeared to her as if heaven was opened already.

The

The day of eternity, where there should be no night any more, did ravish her away. The joy which there she was to have, in singing without ceasing to the praise and glory of Jesus Christ, transported her. She did entreat that the Song concerning the happy death of the faithfull might be sung unto her, that which is found in our Holy Songs, joyning herself there with very much, and thereby elevating herself up to God, and to Christ her King and Redeemer, with much faith and affection. We asking her what she would repay unto him in demonstration of her thanks, for all the good that she had received from him? Hereupon she answered me with a joyfull countenance and with much appearance of the spirit, *An eternall love.* And when she could speak no more and yet understood what we said unto her, she did shew forth even unto her last breath, that she had such a lively and lovely impression thereof that we could not but rejoyce thereat, and praise God for that visible and unusuall enlarge-

ment of his life in her. In this state she yeelded up her soul into the hands of God, leaving after her amongst us the good savour of Christ our Lord. She passed over unto him after she had lived here below about 23 years.

*In the year
1675. in the
month of
September.*

The sixth person which died amongst us was our sister *Sarah Moot*, who having spoken with some of our sisters in the Hague did find her self to be so drawn to the work of the Lord amongst us, that she could not resist that attraction, but must follow it though she loved her parents very much, and was likewise loved very much by them. Certain persons sought to make her to change her resolution, but by their talking she was the more confirmed, that amongst us she should find those helps which she felt that she needed, for to be made known to her self, & to serve God in spirit and in truth. She came then to us whilst we were at Altena, & I speaking with her she said to me, that she was come for no other end but because she hoped to find God amongst us, and in the best and purest manner to be lead to him, being affu-

ted, said she, that amongst us the pure doctrine was taught, and beleeving that the true self-deniall was there more pressed & better practiced then elsewhere, & if she found not that, she would then go and seek it elsewhere. Loving her openheartedness, and having received her into the house, to see what God would work in her, he gave us comfort not long after by what he did in her. At the first she was something resolute in manners & fashion, and naturally bold: but this did quickly alter. And she felt that God had made her perfectly to find that which she had sought for. Since that first time till her death she never looked back to the world, which once she had left, neither thought she on any other thing, being filled by degrees more and more with the sense of thankfulness for that grace which God had shewed to her not withstanding her nothingness, corruption and unworthiness: for thus she spoke of her self. *I had indeed much need, said she, to be humbled, for I was a great sinner, and God hath brought me to*

his House to let me see it. Once the Lord convincing her that the work of grace was not yet done in her, even as she had to soon beleaved. She was so much moved therewith, that it cannot be sufficiently expressed, speaking with much feeling: *Is it not a dreadful thing not to be a true Christian and consequently as yet to be alienated from God and his true communion? To have been so long his enemy, is not this a thing to shake and tremble at it?* Her parents seeing that she continued with us doubted not but that she had found there that which her soul had so much sought after; being assured, as they afterwards said, that nothing else was able to keep her. God by his grace gave her a spirit of very great simplicity. Her love to repentance and mortification of her self did visibly extend it self in her. She knew not how she should sufficiently acknowledge the goodness of God, that he gave her means to work in that which was good, and for the Children of the Lord, when before she was forced to work in

vain things for the world. Her obedience to God and to all what was told her from him, was a speciall comfort. Her modest, earnest and contented silence did edifie much. Her patience in pains and torments was very great. Her love for the Lord Jesus Christ, and her readines and willingness for those that are his, did never say *it is enough*: which I say without making it greater. And yet it seemed to her a little before her death, that she did almost nothing to testifie her love to God and to his Children. Her self love being to her a great burden, because God gave her a lively feeling of it, she groaned continually to be delivered thereof, in what manner and by what way it should please the Lord to do it. All these vertues and graces did appear in a speciall manner when God had brought us to Friesland, & some time before he took her to himself, which happened about the 36. year of her age. The inclination which then she felt to go to God through death, was very speciall, but she durst not

hope that so great a good was so near at hand to her. She was but a little while sick, and could not endure that we should come to help and serve her in what she wanted, believing even almost to her end that she was strong enough to help her self. Now when she saw that God did certainly call her to him self, she said with great acknowledgement, *The Lord answereth that sense which he him self doth give.* And not being able to contain her joy she sung how weaksoever she was, the words of the 119 Psalm, *O God, which art my part and lot, my comfort and my stay: &c.* Afterwards she said, *Now I do indeed believe that I am going to God.* Her soul then seemed as to be swallowed up, looking all by his remembrance and in his presence. The Lord drawing yet nearer, she was then taken with a spirit of holy exultation, and singing for gladness: *I shall follow the Lamb,* said she, *where soever it shall go, that Lamb which hath spilt his blood to purge my soul therein.* And speaking to some one, she said, *He is nearby,*

is be not? When we had offered her up to the Lord, she desired that we would do so much as to sing the Song of Jesus Lamb and King, and yet another, of the blessed death of the Children of God. And although she did tremble for weakness, yet she made them to give her the book, to sing with us, and sung yet keeping her spectacles upon her nose, with a strength of mind which farr exceeded the weakness of her body. At the end she said I can see no more; and a little while after she gave up the ghost, being full of the love of the Lord Jesus, for whom she had a speciall tendernefs.

In our Holy Songs.

Our Sister *Susanna Spykershoff*, the wife of our brother Dankers, did follow her some time after. She came to us at Zunderen with her husband, leaving Middleburgh the place of her birth & habitation without any difficulty, & all her acquaintance, shewing a great zeal to follow and seek God, to the place unto which she felt him to draw their hearts. The trialls and dangers which they suffered were common to both of them; as also

In the year 1676. in the month of Maie.

the grace which God in his love had shewed to them both. Likewise were they at Altena both of them received for members of this body of Christ, and she gave to us much comfort, both by her common conversation, and by the purging out and renewing of her, which God from time to time wrought in her. She loved her husband very tenderly; but when God did call him to another place to the service of his Work & Children, she embraced therein his will with much love: which in her was in a speciall manner edifying, seeing that before when she yet lived in the world, she was wont to be much encumbred, when he was from home for to do their own affaires. God having visited her with great pains of the gravell & stone, whether at Bremen, whilst a part of our Assembly was there, or afterwards at Altena & here in Friesland, she hath been a speciall edification to his House by her courageous mind and patience, which was animated with the love of Jesus Christ. From whom she drew vertue

and strength to suffer to his glory and worthily of him. She passed over to the Lord some days after she was delivered of her last Child. God being willing to try us by the danger where in we saw her when she was delivered, and the little appearance there was that she could be helped therein, yet however she was not there at astonished, but contrarily she herself did encourage that person who served her, referring all things fully to the Lord, even as she left and trusted herself to him. She said, *The Lord is with us, that is enough, all things go well.* She looked upon death with great quietness, and testified, that she never had found more rest and contentment as then. And for as much as she suffered great and excessive pains in her loins, which made her sometimes to lament something; she could not forbear to say, that it was not for any thing but the body, but, she said, *That God was very good to her soul.* Sometimes she said, *That she was not able to express the love which she had for the Children of God:* and yet

we saw that she left them with joy, to go to their Father, who likewise was become hers in Christ. Being scarce able to speak any more, yet she gave notice with what tenderness she took part in the conversion of a soul whereof she was told, in whom the grace of God had appeared in a special manner: and a little after she yeelded up her spirit into the arms of the Lord, to rest therein for ever. The years of her age were 33.

*In the year
1678. in the
month of
Aprill.*

After her followed our Sister *Charin Rooland*. She having lived a very bad life in the world, did partly by Gods Providence, and partly by the motion of his Spirit come to us at Amsterdam; yet being very corrupted. Whilst she was there, God touched her heart, enlightened and humbled her, and laid in her some seeds of his grace which from time to time did lively shew themselves, but also oftentimes were suppressed, darkned and assaulted by her corruption, and by a certain irregularity which was proper to her nature, and to which she had formerly given full

liberty. The Lord at Herfort having shewed something in her which was very pure and essentiall, she was there received for a member, after which returning again to her self, she was to us much sorrow, and did a long time exercise the long-suffering of the Lord; but at the last God was pleased to give us much comfort of her before he took her away. When he visited her with sickness, she told us, *That she did believe that she should soon die, and that for some time she had a great impression in her heart that she should not live long any more, wishing herself, said she, that she might die, in hopes that God would then come more to her, and cause her more to feel his grace and mercy.* She was very full of this mind, and of this hope, when God came to her to do in her as it was a miracle of his grace & power. It was after that she had been sick for some weeks, that the Lord did work very lively in her, and made her from time to time to utter divers words which did lively shew what he did in her heart. The evening before she died, whilst we were at ta-

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ble, she prayed though being withered & dry, saying: My God leave me not I pray thee. Do not surprise me in my own spirit, nor in my sins. If thou shouldest forsake me satan should prevail over me, that enemy of my soul, who hath laid so many snares for me, and hath so much sought to bring me to ruin. He is an insatiably greedy one. He can not endure that one only soul shall serve God her Creatour, though there are so many that serve him. Indeed, said she, I am a miserable one in all respects? and yet what violence hath he not used to have me? I have horribly suffered of him; but indeed it hath been by my own corruption. She cryed out, Lord, I have such a hard heart, I can not humble my self, I can not alter my self. If thou shouldest leave me I should grow impatient and froward. And a little after she said, I am not worthy to lay here upon a bed, I would fain lay upon the earth and die there. O how am I ashamed to see my self laying upon a bed, whereas the Lord Jesus, the Son of David and the Son of God, did die upon a cross. My God, give me a little of thy Sprit, in these my last hours: in these last hours,

my God, be thou pleased to be gracious and
mercifull unto me. Having with much
humility entreated, that we should
pray for her, and the Lord after-
wards being much drawn near to her
soul, she said with much affection
of her heart at night between two
and three the clock, *that her soul was*
as wholly illuminated, that the Lord was
come to her, that he had opened her heart,
that he had taken away the fear of death
from her, which she two days before
the last coming of the Lord to her,
had felt. To which she added,
„The Lord hath heard the prayers of
„his Children for me. what a great
„mercy, what an unconceivable
„goodness, O my Gouvernour!
„O how well hath God done all
„things! I have sinned, I have sinned:
„forgive, forgive, O my God, cry-
ed she, „with Manasse. At an other
time she said, „I feel that self love
„would willingly be in heaven, but
„it will never be able to come into
„it; nothing can come into it but
„by the pure love and the only infi-
„nite mercy of God, revealed unto

„us in Christ Jesus. I have former-
„ly, said she, fallen into the water:
„God might have suffered me to be
„drowned therein; but he was not
„willing to surprise me in my igno-
„rance, & in my sins. He hath kept
„me alive till this time. O how good
„is God, that he doth not close my
„mouth, but yet suffereth me that I
„may move my tongue to praise his
„mercy. The Lord hath kept me
„by him and his Work as with force,
„by the power of his truth, and help
„of his faithfull Servants. If I was
„now in the world, deprived of
„those means which the Lord giveth
„me here, how miserable indeed
„would be my state! It is by an in-
„finite mercy that God hath kept me
„at his Work. What should not I
„have been if I had been left to my
„self! Being sensible that she had
„oftentimes grieved the pure Spirit of
„God in his Children, she said, „I
„am unworthy to speak any more to
„any one: I have deserved that I
„should be left to lay as a beast. I
„have been a prater in the House of

„the Lord. If God should restore
 „me again to health, I ought to be
 „the first that should keep silence,
 „and the last to speak; and my voice
 „ought not to be heard in his House.
 „I must not speak but to ashamē and
 „condemn my self. Those whom
 „God hath well purged, it fits them to
 „speak: and not such a sinner as I am.
 My Brother Dulignon coming to her
 in the morning, she said presently
 that she was unworthy to see him, &
 ashamēd that he came to her. She
 said, „I am unworthy that a sancti-
 „fied soul, a soul that liveth to God
 „and serveth him, should speak
 „with me, or that I should have the
 „happines to speak with it. I de-
 „serve to die, without having any to
 „speak with me. I have given so much
 „trouble, let none take any more
 „for me. If God suffereth yet one
 „word more to be spoken to me, that
 „is nothing but meer mercy. We
 calling her with the name of sister,
 she answered me: *I am unworthy to be*
so called, I dare not call you brother. She
 declared that she had great grief, be-

cause in her sickness she had not given more edification, and shewed that she had taken to much care about her body, She said, „that her state „was to her as a mystery: that she „knew not what to say of it, feeling „both sin and mercy. Gods mercy „is infinite, it is infinite, cried „she; my sins also are as infinitely „great, which she repeated more then once. And afterwards she said, „I am a creature an evill doer, and „God is that Creatour that doeth „good. O what great a grace is the „grace of repentance! O if it pleased God to give me yet some time, „that I might humble my self before „his Children, and justifie him! When they would give her a little wine, she said, *I deserve to be drenched with my corruption, and am not worthy to enjoy a drop of water.* when I spoke to her of praying to God that it might please him to receive her into his Divine hands: she answered, „At his „feet, for it is yet to great a grace „that God endureth me at his feet, „and sayeth not to me, depart

hence. She said, I would willingly
 creep into the dust at the feet of the
 creatures, to shew how much I wish
 to cast myself down at the feet of the
 Creatour. Men call themselves com-
 monly Christians, but what great a
 matter is that indeed! My Brother
 Dulignon a little while after coming
 to her again, she said, You come yet
 again to me, I am unworthy of it?
 but I love it much, feeling the good
 which it doth to my soul. I have gi-
 ven you both much trouble, but God
 will be your eternall reward. You
 have told me the truth in all things.
 The Lord hath now put me in a state
 to be as a bowle, which he rowleth
 where he will. I know now what
 that word meaneth which I have
 heard sometimes. She had said before
 That which the Lord doth in me, is
 that he enableth me to go to him, to
 give my self over to his freedom, &
 to throw my self down at his feet,
 untill he himself shall thrust me a-
 way, if he in his adorable justice
 shall think it fit, as a thing that is
 not worthy to be touched with his

„hands. God will always be found
„just in his doing. One might per-
ceive the anointing of the Spirit even
so far as in her very words. She en-
treated every one to pardon her all
wherein she had done amiss to them.
She said, *God cometh to purge his House
and to cleanse it of such an unfaithfull one
as I be. My body being weak, I can not
speak much to you. To which she ad-
ded to one whom she exhorted to
purge herself throughly and to be
faithfull to the Lord; But I speak to
you as being before God, and going to ap-
pear before him. The Lord hath received
me for a member of his Church, but I have
not answered this grace. Likewise up-
on an other occasion she said, O how
great a good is it to be able to do something in
the House of the Lord, although it were on-
ly to gather some wood!* She was flexi-
ble and brokenhearted, making re-
sistance in nothing, and as a Child
in all things what was told her, or
desired of her. At the last she fell a
sleep (being about 43 years old) soft-
ly, but with great humility in God,
as a guilty soul, which casteth her-

self down at the feet of her judge, to hear her sentence to be given, feeling herself worthy of his judgement, & yet taking great refuge to his mercy, and the blood of Christ Jesus her great Redeemer. She said, *Two sorts of souls go to God: penitent; and those that love: but I will be one of the first.* Her countenance had something special after her death, & her soul went out so peaceably and quietly with the last words of the prayer, wherewith we presented her before God, that it was hardly perceived.

Our worthy & blessed Sister Mrs. Schurman being passed over into Gods bosom, as will be seen in her life; thereupon our very worthy Sister Mrs. *van der Haer*, whose three daughters with her were members of this body of Christ, and whom we looked upon as a Mother, was happily delivered by death from all remainders of weakness. In the life of Mr. van der Haer her husband, even then she had but little inclination to the common cours of the world, which was oftentimes burdensom to

In the year 1678. in the month of July.

her. After his decease she gave her Children liberty to do according to their heart in what concerned the worship of God. She received us in her house at the Hague with much love and civility, though then as yet she had but little lively feeling & impression of that which God worketh in those that are his. She came to visit us at Amsterdam; at such a time when it pleased God to bring us into many trials. And yet then it was that the Lord began to give her a taste of his Spirit, giving her such an impression of his pure truth, that she was not sufficiently able to express it, and whereof the remainders a little while after were again powerfully stirred up and made lively. Two of her daughters with her approbation being come to us at Herfort, she came
7 with the third, thinking after some time to return with them together; but she was so happy that God himself kept her there, and revealed himself in his grace and love to her heart. The Lord Jesus wrought so lively in her, that we saw in truth a soul as

was that of Nicodemus to be regenerated and born again, which she likewise wanted much. She found herself then to be so inwardly and from the bottom of her heart united with this Church of Jesus Christ, whereof God made her a member, that she could not leave the same again: and the sense of thankfulness for the grace which God bestowed upon her in her last days, was so lively and tender in her, that we took often times pleasure to hear with what taste and fulness of heart she spoke thereof. She said, *what a goodness is it that God hath so received me when I sought him not but lived wholly to my self!* Some times she said, *What a grace is it that God hath not cast of my weak and maimed members, but will yet use them for his service.* Likewise she did bestow them to all whereunto she was fit, with such a zeal and love for God and his Children, that many times it hath very lively touched our hearts. She never refused any thing that was brought to her to do, and every one brought it willingly to her,

because her great inclination to keep herself employed for the Lord and his Children was known. She was very tenderly sensible of that good which she did dayly receive from the Lord, and she had such a love for the Lord Jesus his Kingdom and his glory, that one might see as it was a new life come into her, when she did but speak of it. Although she was of a very great age, yet she followed the Lord in his Work untill the end with an admirable courage of mind. She came with us from Altena into Friesland, having otherwise never past over the sea. And from hence she went for Holland, not withstanding her weakness, to take order about her business, and likewise being very willing to bear witness of that which God had done in her and caused her to find among his Children. After that she had taken order about all things according to the will of God she returned again, although they were willing to keep her at the Hague. After that she did wholly fix and center herself upon God, lea-

ing a very Christian simple and ho-
 ly life before his Face. I have many
 times been much comforted, seeing
 the light which was powred forth in
 her soul, and the faithfulness in
 which she walked through the Spirit
 before God and the face of Jesus
 Christ. Her peace and the content-
 ment of her heart did agree with the
 goodness of God towards her. She
 said, „God hath called me at the
 last hour, and is it not a great
 goodness that it pleaseth him to give
 me the same reward, which those
 shall receive that have laboured the
 whole day. O said she, what cause
 have I to thank Tetje (so she called
 her eldest daughter) that she hath so
 faithfully helped me to come out of
 the world! Could I ever think that
 God had laid up such a great good
 for me, who have spent my self in
 the cours of the world? O (said she
 speaking to her daughters) how hap-
 py are you that you are called even
 in your youth, by the Lord to his
 service. Seing the love of the Children
 of God, who did behave themselves

towards her as to their mother, she said with affection of heart, „ O „ how doth not God give a hundred „ fold, even in this life, when one „ hath lost all in his hands! God „ hath made me to loose my three „ children in him, but he hath gi- „ ven them to me again, and besides „ them yet so many others. Who „ would have beleevd, said she, „ that God should be so mercifull e- „ ven to those that sought him not? „ He causeth my sins to pass by be- „ fore me, as if I were to see all in „ hast, for my time is short. She having found some adherence to a child of her daughter, she was afterwards wary that she might not suffer her heart to be taken up with an other, after that God had taken the first out of the world. She was very loose of her goods, and her neglect & forgetfulness of all what she had formerly were unusuall. When God laid any diseases and pains upon her she bare them with a speciall strength yea and with such a silence, that we were afterwards astonished to see what

what she had suffered, without making any mention of it. God having granted a little while before her happy decease, that we did view the state of our souls (as we do the same from time to time, whether it be to praise him for his grace, or to stirr our selves up to greater faithfulness,) & divers admonitions in the assembly having been given to her, she did receive them with so much humility, love and earnestness, that we were in a speciall manner comforted and edified with her inward attention before God, and with the renewing of his grace, which wrought the same in her. Likewise after that she said, *that now she had no more to do, and was ready to depart from hence, if God should call her.* When God came to take to himself our worthy Sister Schurman, she said unto her with joy, *I will soon follow you, worthy sister.* Even as likewise happened, for the Lord did not stay long to call her to himself. She shewed in her sickness, which took her away in few days, that she had a great feeling of her sins,

which did humble her before God & his Children. She likewise shewed a great confidence on Christ her Redeemer, and a great love to go and behold his Face; and she was as much assured that he should here on earth re-establish all things as if she saw it with her eyes. Some times she said, *Children, I love you all very much, but when the Lord Jesus shall call me, O how glad shall I be to leave you!* She prepared her self to suffer more; but God came to end her torments speedily, taking her to himself in a very easy manner, and to the great comfort of his Children. She said two days before her death, *that she did consider herself as the sacrifice upon the altar, which expected the fire from heaven to consume it.* And the morning before she went to God one of her daughters being willing to give her something for her refreshment, she said *Give me no more, for it is fit that I should suffer some thing before I come to my end.* Some one telling her thereupon, your suffering will not continue long, for I hope that before night doth come, you will be in

the day of eternity, she gave this answer, *What, to enjoy it so soon! I have not yet suffered enough, Should I suffer no more? I had not thought that.* And so she went as with open eyes to God in the 69 year of her age, looking on death coming with joy and groaning after it, and melting in tears of love, in the consideration of that great and eternall Good, which she was going to possesse. Here with was she wholly full and penetrated, and we never spoke thereof, but we were comforted, and felt the anointing of the spirit in her with joy. She loved the Lord Jesus heartily. She had a great inclination to his cross, and she was as transported, when she thought on his Sovereign Dominion, which now she doth contemplate, and enjoy to all eternity.

The last person whereof we shall speak in this last description, is *In the same year in the month of September.* Hester Teunis of Utrecht. This person had been very grossly and much affected to the world, covetous and very fast on all things. Because she found but little help in the

ordinary means which she had, saying often times that she did wholly want some thing else, and came to speak with a person, who had been with us at Amsterdam, and communicating to her that which she had there received, she felt her heart to be touched in a speciall manner therewith. Having had opportunity afterwards to speak with two of our Sisters at Utrecht, she resolved to come to us, to see if God would shew to her mercy and grace, and make her by his Spirit an other creature. And so she came and continued with us untill God in his love hath taken her away from us. A little while after she came to us, her heart was so lively touched with those truths which she heard, and got such light about her state, that she never afterwards lost the impression thereof. Yet she had much to fight against and to conquer, before she could truly give herself over to the Lord. Her corruptions were strong and deeply rooted, but the hand of God was yet stronger to root them out. His truth

was as a hammer, which did beat to peeces her hard heart, his grace did mollify it, and his love did finally conquer it, and formed it into an other heart. God made her loose of flesh and blood, of the world, and of the earth, of her self and of her most inward corruptions. He gave her a hatred against herself, and such a love for his truth and Children, who made the same known to her, and whom she saw to live according to it, that she could not resist the same. She was so much ashamed because of the goodness of God, who had brought her into his house, not withstanding her having been so notoriously earthly minded, and she was so taken up with the long suffering of his Spirit, who had so long endured her there, that she could not sufficiently express it. Likewise when she went amongst persons of the world, and she was told that we did not bear with souls, but were to severe, she did always propound herself for an example, to shew the great forbearance which God in this

his House did cause to be exercised, towards those who in some uprightness will die to themselves and the world. She did love to be discovered to herself, and did shew a great acknowledgement thereof when in faithfulness we did help her therein. God from time to time gave her very pure light. She found herself to be sometimes much affected with his Divine presence, and to be thereby delivered from her temptations, or her own humane thoughts. She did as it were drink in the truth and the good word of God, when she heard it in the assemblies. *Her heart, said she, did continually say Amen to all what she heard.* The Lord tried her soul sometime before she died, in a speciall manner humbling her before his presence, and causing her inwardly to feel a bitter smart for her sins which she had committed against him. She was especially sorry, ashamed and grieved for those sins where by she had made herself guilty about the Work of the Lord by her own judgement, and was more sensible

of this then she could tell. In her last sickness which she got after that she had helped our sister V. with much love, she said with acknowledgement, God hath taken away all my care, which kept her in great rest before the Lord, who keeping her busy with his Goodness, made her to loose the thoughts and even the sense of her suffering. She took it in love, and in the spirit of true repentance, saying, *that repentance was not so soon ended, and that she had great need to continue there in to the end.* I feel, said she, *within such a rest and peace that I can not express it.* She cryed out, *what goodness, what power, that God hath made such a rebellious creature obedient unto him!* She received with much humility the service which was done to her: and thanked the Lord Jesus for that he had brought her to this his Sheepfold, and that likewise he took her to himself from the midst of his Children. And so she fell asleep, even as we have all cause to beleeve, in his arms and bosom.

FINIS.

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Errours to be corrected.

Pag. 3: lin. 3, 4. read a Man of God. p. 5: l. 28.
 r. closing her eyes. p. 8: l. 19. r. gave her. l.
 26. r. breath. p. 11: l. 25. r. thoughts. p. 13.
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In the margine.

Pag. 227: lin. 4. read In the same month.